May 2026, Volume 4

Marginata

Celebrating Australia's wonderful flora

In this edition we have two major features:

- a colourful look at the **Hakea genus,** including an **R-rated, Adults Only section**!
- a look at the similarities in plants between **Australia and New Zealand**, even though on first impression, the New Zealand landscape looks totally different to ours. The similarities mostly come from our ancient **Gondwana** connection, which is more obvious in NZ than here.

Our President, **Tim Wood**, summarises APSSA's achievements over the past year and introduces our two new Councillors (**Pat Easom** and **Madeleine Karutz**), as well as farewelling **Margaret Lee** and **Leonore Swanson** from Council. What a wonderful contribution both these ladies have made over decades!

Thanks to members for sending in:

- a lovely **bonsai** pictorial (Jim Hayward and Sandra McKenzie)
- a **Facebook** sensation (Lynlee Sloper)
- a photo of a near-extinct **swainsona** (Sandra Wood) and
- **butterfly plants** on Hindmarsh Is (Karen Lane)

Contributions - and even just ideas - are very welcome.

Note that in this edition I have not provided the rainfall/Ph/soil information blocks next to each photo. Let me know if these are useful to you, and if so I will keep including them in future.

Remember - all newsletter links are safe to use, and have been checked.

Alice McCleary, Editor
newsletter@australianplantssa.asn.au

IN THIS ISSUE...

Next time:

- ***Blue flowers***
- ***What is a species?***

Welcome to our new members!

- Michael Hunt
- Georgie Hart
- Roz Daniell
- Casey Mudge
- Alistair Rowland
- Natalie Mason
- Kate McLeay
- Michelle Page
- Rebecca Greening
- Rebecca Wilholt
- Lucy Clive
- Bluey
- Timothy Loft
- Jamie Nicholls
- Rae Darcy
- Vanda Rounsefell
- Paul Birkwood
- Jane Varsos
- Libby Moore
- Carol Robinson
- Kym Fitzpatrick
- Vaughan Behncke

Closing date for contributions for the next issue close on

20 August

Next edition our feature genus will be

Callistemon

Please send your favourite photos to me.

CELEBRITY SQUARE

Our Celebrity Square member this time is **Leonore Swanson**. Leonore joined APSSA in 2005 and is APS Fleurieu Group secretary. She has just retired from State Council after several years. Her favourite plant is ***Petrophile linearis.***

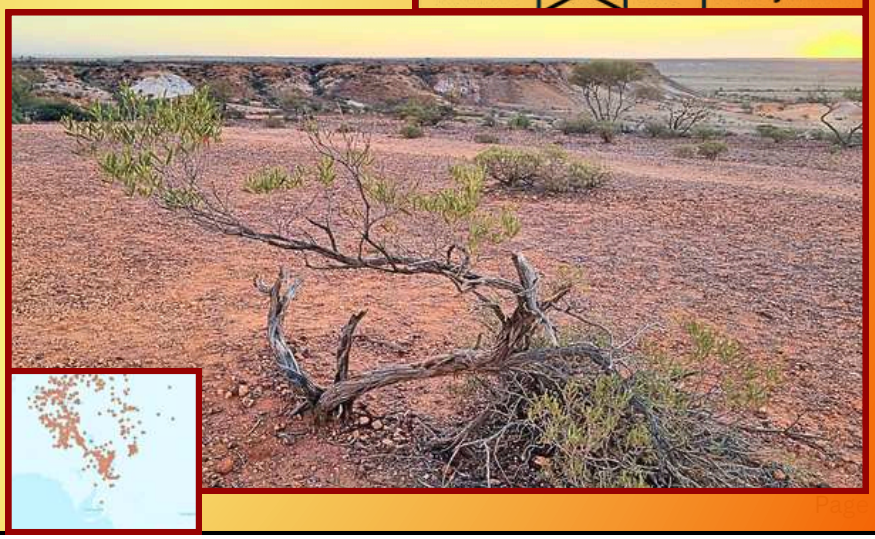
Leonore says: "The shapes and colours of flowers are what intrigue me most about Australian plants. In particular I love the maturing of flowers in the family Proteaceae, so I watch out for Grevilleas and Banksias when walking in the bush in S.A. I love different stages of development from tight bundles before the styles lengthen to loops then form long straight lines after they burst through the petals. One of my favourite ***Grevilleas*** is ***lavendulaceae*** which grows in many parts of the state so can be seen on many walks, and of the two S.A. ***Banksias*** I prefer ***ornata***.

"However to me the most beautiful examples of Proteaceae family are the Isopogons and Petrophiles from WA. Top of my list of the many beautiful examples, is ***Petrophile linearis***, the Pixie Mops. The display of unopened flowers on the top of the array with the orange pins of the open ones drooping in a tangled mass below are such a perfect balance of colour and shape. I have managed to grow some and watch as the flowers develop with keen interest each year, loving every stage from first petals to grey spent mop."

RESILIENCE AND OPPORTUNISM

This column features plants doing it very tough. Here we are at the Breakaways, a magnificent series of coloured earth and rock formations near Coober Pedy.

150mm | ~~+SW~~ | Alk | Stony sand



This ***Eremophila freelingii*** is growing in stony ground, on a significant slope. Most of the meagre rainfall (<6"pa) will run off down the hill. January temperatures *average* 37°, and it can get to 50° in heat waves. The dead carcasses of its siblings lie all around, and clearly this plant too has had numerous setbacks...

But it remains alive, against all the odds. Resilience it has, in spades. Yet Opportunism is also present – it has few competitors in this harsh environment, so if it just can manage to survive, it can thrive with almost all the available water and nutrients to itself.

Bookings open now!

www.anpsaconference.com

Generous refund provisions apply, for those concerned about possible fuel and travel costs

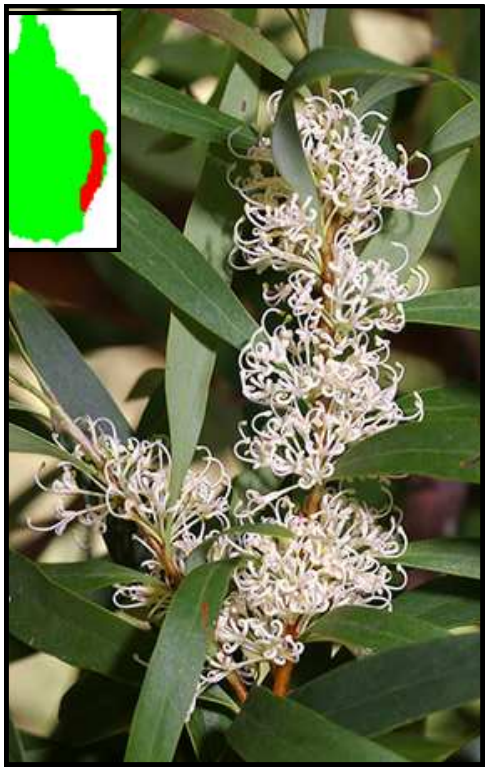
Hakeas

Hakea macraeana, at Nangawooka

Hakeas are members of the Proteaceae family and its close relatives include Banksia, Grevillea, Isopogon and Telopea (the Waratah). Hakea is named after **Baron Christian Ludwig von Hake**, a German patron of science who seems to be a bit of an enigma. He, and hakeas, are not mentioned in my go-to Bible for this sort of information, Len Stephenson's excellent booklet entitled "*What's in a name*". Maybe Len couldn't find out anything substantial either? According to Hake's sparse entry in *Wikidata*, he lived 1745-1818, resided in Hanover and had senior roles in politics and law.

The hakea genus was first named in 1797 (using materials collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander on Cook's first voyage in 1770), by Heinrich Schrader and Johann Christoph Wendland who were working in Hake's hometown of Hanover. They mentioned the new species in a seminal botanical work on plants in the Hannover Royal Gardens (which must have included hakeas), so perhaps Baron Hake assisted or encouraged them in this project. It is unfortunate that the link between Baron Hake and Hakeas is no longer clear.

There are about 153 species in the genus, all of which are endemic to Australia. Hakeas can be found in many different environments: the tropics, mountains, the coast and desert areas. The most diversity - and half of all hakea species - occurs in the south-west of Western Australia.



Although there are many ornamental and colourful species in the genus, Hakea has not achieved the same popularity in cultivation as its relatives Grevillea and Banksia. In some ways Hakea forms a link between those two genera, having hard woody seed pods with Banksia-like seeds, while the flowers occur in Grevillea-like clusters.

The beautiful ***Hakea francisiana*** flower at right has many features in common with grevilleas, which perhaps explains its presence in a renowned NSW public grevillea garden tended by the national Society's Grevillea Study Group. It is a tall shrub from the Great Victoria Desert, northern Eyre peninsula and wheatbelt of WA where it grows on deep sands.

Hakea francisiana, at Illawarra Grevillea Park, Bulli NSW

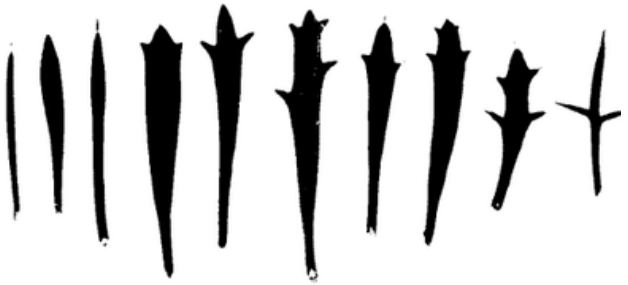
The above ***Hakea salicifolia,*** (the Willow-leaved Hakea) shows a strong similarity to grevillea flowers. The tough leaves give it away as a hakea, however. The species name, salicifolia, comes from the scientific name for willow - salix. This species is used in grafting more picky species.

Hakea nitida, Nangawooka, showing leaf spikes

Many (but by no means all) hakeas have stiff **leaves** with sharp points. This feature has probably contributed to the relatively slow uptake of the genus in general horticulture but it does make hakeas excellent plants for boundaries or places where it is desired to restrict access. It also makes them ideal plants to offer protection to birds from predators such as cats.

But leaves vary widely, especially as to whether leaf prickles are present or not, and it can be a challenge to identify them with confidence.

H. varia (right) takes this to extremes, with both the scientific name and the common name - Variable-Leaved Hakea - highlighting the issue. In this photo we see straight, two-, three- and 5- pointed leaves of various shapes - zoom in to see the circled detail. This variability was examined by the Hakea Study Group in 1993 when the leader surveyed his own 15yo ***H. varia*** and came up with all these shapes (right) on the one bush. These old Study Group newsletters are a wonderful source of information.[1]



H. horrida (right) is another species with comsiderable leaf variability, as shown above left from the 1993 SG newsletter. ***G. horrida*** is well named, being dense, extremely prickly and impenetrable. But like most hakeas, the flowers are scented and not at all horrid.

Hakea maconochieana (left) is a rare species with red flowers, needle-like leaves and an upright or spreading shrub habit. It is endemic to central Queensland. It generally grows in stony clay soil in scattered open ***Acacia stowardii*** communities. It is listed by WH Payne, the editor of our national journal "*Australian Plants*" for over 40 years, as one of the 6 most spectacular hakea flowers.

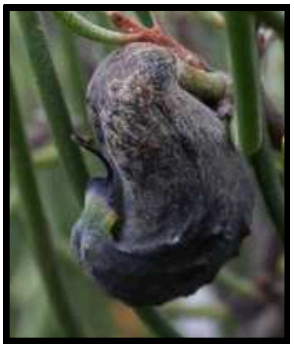
[1] Taken from Hakea Study Group Newsletter No 19, May 1993, available on https://anpsa.org.au/

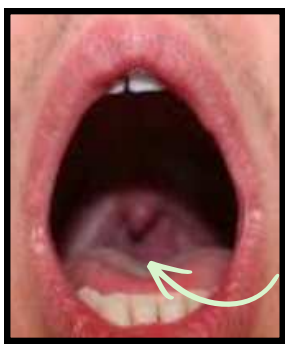
Hakea grammatophylla (left) is a rare NT hakea, from the MacDonnell Ranges in Central Australia. The spectacular flowers appear March - August, which means it may still be in flower at the time of the ANSPA conference in Alice Springs this August. This is another of WH Payne's top 6 hakea species from a flower perspective.

Hakea lissosperma (right), or Mountain Needlewood, is a little unusual in that it enjoys wet mountainous situations. The type specimen was collected in Tasmania, and first named scientifically in 1810 by Robert Brown. It has an unusual fruit - see next page.

Another of WH Payne's Top 6, ***Hakea multilinea*** (right) - the Grass-leaved Hakea - certainly merits its place on the list. The pink flowers seem to twist around the branch like a DNA strand. It enjoys gravelly heaths in SW WA, low summer humidity and an open sunny position.

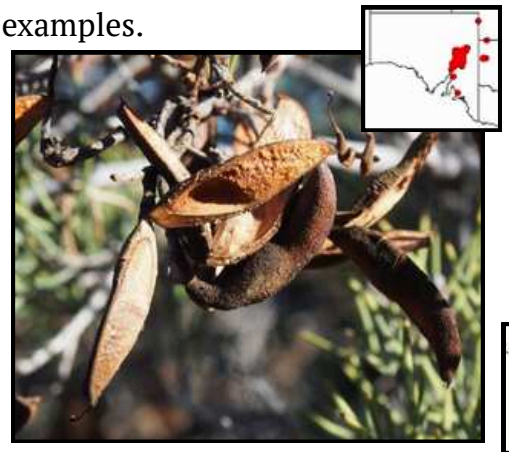
Hakea epiglottis (above) - the Beaked Hakea - has such a great name I felt I had to include it! A Tasmanian species enjoing peaty heaths, it is *dioecious*, meaning there are separate male and female plants. The males have 2-8 flowers, whereas the females only have 1-3 flowers. The style of the flower has a small pollen disc which is *concave* in *male* flowers but with a conical *protuberance* in *female* flowers. This seems entirely the wrong way around to me! Sex ed is turned on its head... And since "style" is usually defined as the tube in the centre of a flower connecting the pistil at the top with the ovary in the base of the *female* flower parts, I'm not sure how male flower could even have a style? Unisexual populations have male plants which do not produce fruit but their flowers produce pollen. Female populations have fruit with no pollen. And there are recorded populations of bisexual plants where the fruit occur together with flowers producing pollen. Humans are simple by comparison! Please let me know if you understand how this plant works!



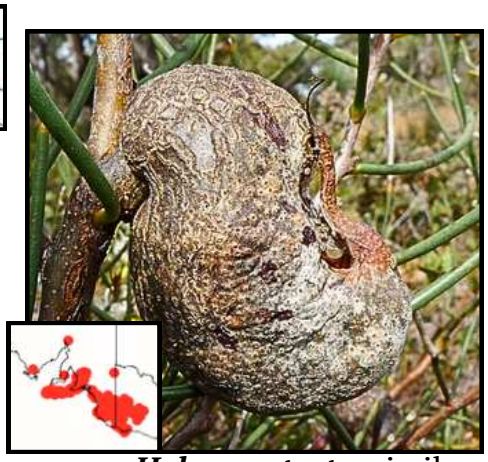


As for the intriguing ***Epiglottis*** name, it apparently springs from the shape of the fruits looking something like a human epiglottis: the flap at the back of your tongue that drafts food to your stomach and air to your lungs. Jacques Labillardière, the French botanist on d'Entrecasteaux's trip to southern Australia in 1791, named the plant while in Tasmania. A man of fanciful imagination, it seems. [The ***Billardiera*** genus of climbing plants is named after him.]

Hakea fruits are an interesting part of the plant. The flowers are followed by hard, woody seed pods each containing two seeds and, in the majority of species, these pods remain tightly closed unless stimulated to open by heat, such as following a bushfire, or by the death of the plant. The seeds themselves have a papery wing which allows them to be distributed by wind. Here are some interesting examples.



Hakea ednieana, Flinders Ranges Corkwood



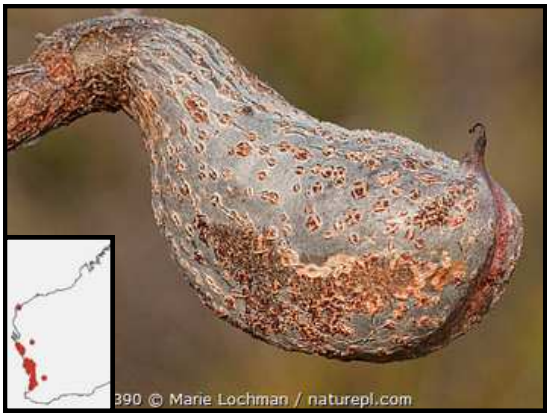
Hakea rostrata, similar shape to ***H. epiglottis***

Hakea lissosperma

Hakea eyreana

Hakea rugosa

Hakea gibbosa, showing lovely internal colour



Hakea candolleana

Hakea salicifolia

The magnificent Cricket Ball Hakea - ***H. platysperma*** - seems to vary from very round fruits to pear shaped ones. Have SA members had success in growing it here? Let me know, with pics. I failed…

RNA BIOPESTICIDES FOR NEXT-GENERATION PROTECTION OF CROPS AND NATIVE PLANTS

Most of us first heard about RNA medicines (the close relative of DNA) during COVID, where it was used to develop vaccines against the virus in very quick time. RNA is now being researched to protect *plants* with the intent of providing effective pest protection without the toxic residues left by chemical pesticides in soil and food.

One world-first project being conducted by the University of Queensland aims to develop RNA spray biopesticides focusing particularly on control of **myrtle rust** and **phytophthora root rot**. RNA biopesticides are a game-changing plant protection platform which is pathogen-specific, do not require any modification to the plant, or leave harmful residues in the environment. The expected outcome is an innovative, safe and environmentally sustainable alternative to chemical fungicides for controlling these and other diseases. This should also provide significant benefits to the $90billion Australian agriculture industry by increasing productivity and sustainability.

The RNA spray induces RNA interference (RNAi) – a natural way to shut down protein translation – which means it could slow the spread of myrtle rust through bushland, home gardens and nurseries. PhD candidate Rebecca Degnan said in the decade myrtle rust had been in Australia it had become a huge problem, with more than 350 native hosts. "Of those plants that have been screened, only 3% were completely resistant to infection, and more than 40 species have been deemed conservation priorities because of major damage from myrtle rust," Ms Degnan said.

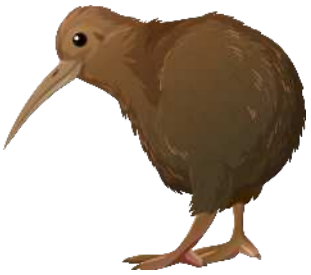
RNA biopesticides could also play an important role in conservation programs for native endangered plants, protecting them from disease as soon as they come out of seed banks/tissue culture and into nurseries, botanic gardens and revegetation sites.

This project was awarded $1.18m from the Australian Research Council. Our sister organisation, Native Plants Queensland, is providing $10,000 per year which will facilitate the testing of RNA pesticides on native plants in tissue culture and nurseries.

More info: https://news.uq.edu.au/2022-12-19-scientists-tackle-rusty-plant-threat

This gorgeous swainsona, **S. fuscoviridis** was thought to probably be extinct, and here it is popping up on a mine site near Kadina! Thanks Sandra Wood for sending it in.

Australia v. New Zealand



NO, I am not talking about cricket or rugby, but about plants of course. A recent trip to New Zealand reminded me of how incredibly different our flora is, despite our geographic closeness! How is it that there is relatively little cross-over between our plants, (ignoring weed species of course)? The timing of Gondwana's breakup is key…

This fascinating video - produced in NZ - shows the breakup of Gondwana with an Antipodean emphasis - something rare in these types of videos. Click to start. Turn your volume up and take your time looking at the detail of the earth's movements.

About half way through the animation (~160mya), a little piece of NZ (the Auckland peninsula) can be seen on the edge of Antarctica, already quite far from mainland Australia though still part of the southern Gondwana landmass. Tasmania - already in its current position vis-a-vis the Australian mainland - is the nearest part of current Australia to current NZ, but could not be called "close". NZ broke off about 85mya, and by 50mya, it was out in the Tasman Sea. Any further direct sharing of Gondwanan plants after that time is unlikely.

As you would expect from this, relatives of many of New Zealand's most distinctive plants were present when New Zealand was part of Gondwana. Biologists used to think they all evolved from ancestors that were 'on board' when New Zealand broke away from Gondwana 85 million years ago. Others now argue that many species disappeared from New Zealand for a while, only to be re-introduced from Australia or New Caledonia. This is surprising from an Australian perspective, as limited species of these genera are now present in mainland Australia.


Agathis australis, at the Bay of Islands, NZ

The ***Agathis*** genus, or Kauri pines, are a much-revered genera wherever they grow in the world. The map shows ***Agathis*** species' distribution around the rim of the Tasman and Coral Seas. They are part of the ***Araucaria*** family, which includes our Bunya and Norfolk Is. pines. Incidentally, New Caledonia is now the world centre of diversity for the Araucarias!

Distribution of ***Agathis*** genus

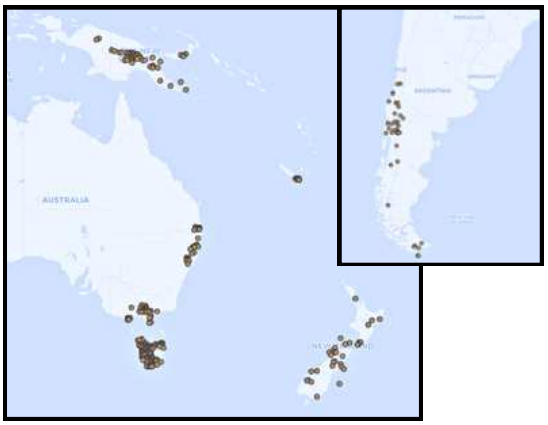
The magnificent NZ Kauri Pine, ***A. australis,*** is a chiefly tree of the Maoris, and grows only at low elevations on the Auckland peninsula.

Australian ***Agathis*** include our own 40m Kauri Pine, ***A. robusta.*** Much rarer are ***A. microstachya***, and ***A. atropurpurea*** with its purplish bark. They are all Queensland species.

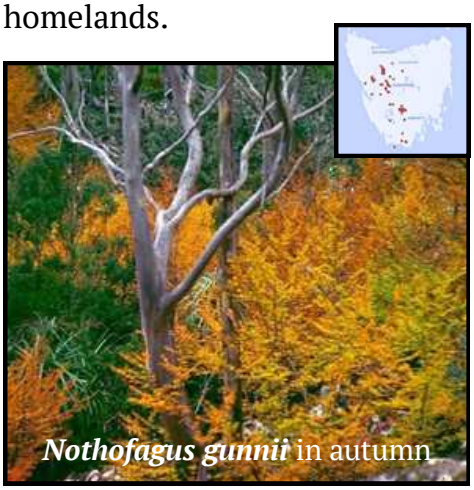
In 2019 a whole edition of "Australian Plants" was devoted to Gondwanan matters as they affect our plants.

It is a great read, aimed at the general reader rather than experts! Here is the link

Nothofagus is another famous Gondwanan genus - the southern beeches. Distribution of the genus extends around the Tasman and Coral Seas - very similar to the kauri pines - but extends to western South America too. All are magnificent trees, and revered in their homelands.



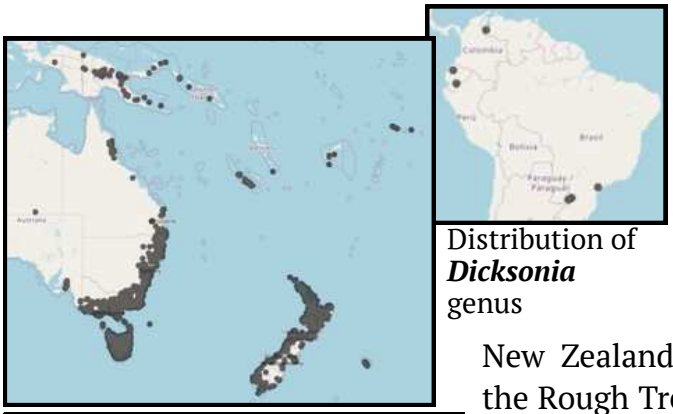
Distribution of ***Nothofagus*** genus



Nothofagus gunnii in autumn

In Australia, ***N. cunninghamii***, the Myrtle Beech, grows in Tas and Vic and can reach 50m in height. ***N. moor***ei (Antarctic Beech) in NSW and Qld, and also can reach 50m.

N gunnii, the beautiful Deciduous Beech or Tanglefoot of Tasmania, is one of our few deciduous trees and has wonderful orange autumn colour. It is either a shrub or small tree in size, and is the pride of Tasmanians.



Distribution of ***Dicksonia*** genus

Another common and ancient Gondwana plant is ***Dicksonia***, the tree fern. The genus's pattern of distribution in the Pacific is similar to those above, but with a wider coverage in eastern Australia. It extends out into the islands more, and the South American presence is in the tropics. Dicksonias are ancient plants indeed, pre-dating dinosaurs.

Dicksonia squarrosa

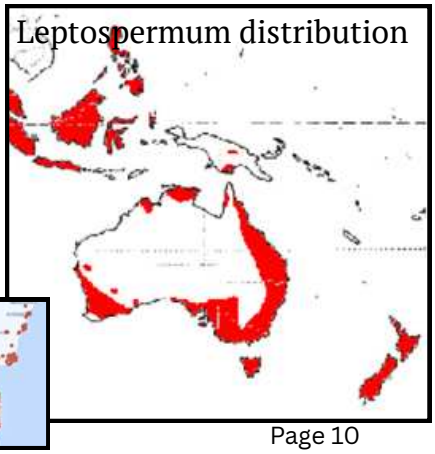
New Zealand's ***Dicksonia squarrosa*** - the Rough Tree Fern or Wheki - usually has a dead-frond skirt, which distinguishes it from many other tree ferns in NZ's cool forests. It can grow to 6m. Like its Aussie cousin, ***D. squarrosa*** has good bushfire resistance.

Dicksonia antarctica

Australia's ***Dicksonia antarctica*** is widespread in coastal forests from Tasmania to southern Queensland. It usually grows to 5m, but may rarely reach 15m! Its dead fronds seem to drop off. ***D. antarctica*** is thought to be extinct in SA - is this true? Let me know.

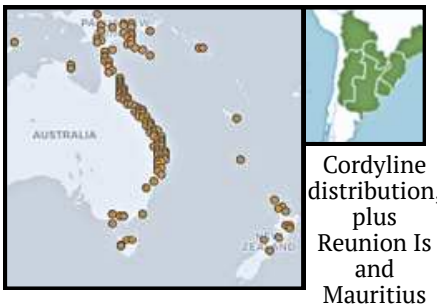
Melaleucas, callistemons and ***leptospermums*** are all Gondwana species, and closely related - the so-called "Leptospermum Alliance". New Zealand has only one native Leptospermum species, which is also native to Tasmania - ***L. scoparium***, the Manuka Tea Tree. It is very widespread in NZ, growing to 8m. This species is the sources of most tea tree cultivars, though increasingly *L. spectabile* is also being used for breeding.

Of the world's 92 Leptospermum species, 87 are endemic to Australia. As mentioned, we share one species, ***L. scoparium*** (right), with New Zealand, and one Australian tropical species - ***L. amboinense*** - extends into South-east Asia. Three species are endemic to South-east Asia. Six Australian leptospermum have also been introduced to NZ, where many are now invasive - as is also the case in Australia particularly with East Coast species in WA .



Leptospermum distribution

Cordylines are among the more ancient of Gondwana genera, with most examples being distributed across Australasia and South America. Ten species occur in Australia, all on the east coast. New Zealand has four endemic species, including the cordyline most often seen in Australian gardens - the seemingly confusingly-named species ***C. australis*****.** However, "australis" just means "southern", so Sir Joseph Banks was quite within his rights to use that label when he saw it in NZ in 1769 on Cook's first voyage to the Pacific.



Cordyline distribution, plus Reunion Is and Mauritius


Cordyline mauritiana

One species - ***C. mauritiana*** (left) - only occurs on Reunion Island and Mauritius, off the coast of Africa out in the Indian Ocean. This is particularly interesting, as those islands are volcanic... They only formed 2mya and 10 mya, respectively, long after Gondwana had completely broken up and the rest of its cousins had been dispersed around the Pacific rim tens of millions of years earlier. How did it get to such an isolated spot in the middle of the sea, and with no neighbours within 10,000 km?


Cordyline australis purpurea, in Dunedin Botanic Gardens

C. australis (right) now grows all over the world as a garden subject, including in very cold climates such as northern Scotland. This close-up photo of its tiny flowers is gorgeous.


Cordyline australis flowers


Cordyline obtecta

C. obtecta grows on Norfolk Island (just visible at the top of the map), and on a few tiny islands off NZ's North Island. It can reach 10m high in forest situations.

And now for something completely different - **Gondwanan fungi!** The discovery of ***Cortinarius phalarus*** growing in paperbark and eucalypt mulch in WA led to wondering how it came to be there. The ***corinarius*** genus is spread in the usual Gondwana pattern - eastern Australia, NZ, New Caledonia, New Guinea and South America. There is a strong correlation of ***corinarius*** occurrence with ***Nothofagus*** species throughout the region, and ***C. phalarus*** has been recorded in Tasmania, where ***Northofagus*** still flourishes. A mycorrhizal relationship is thought to exist. Could it be that ***nothofagus*** once grew in WA but has become extinct, while its former mycorrhizal buddy continues to grow there, in the higher rainfall areas where other relic plants grow? In WA, ***C. phalarus*** now partners with myrtaceous plants such as ***Melaleuca preissiana, Eucalyptus Rudis*** and ***Astartea*** species to provide its valuable services.

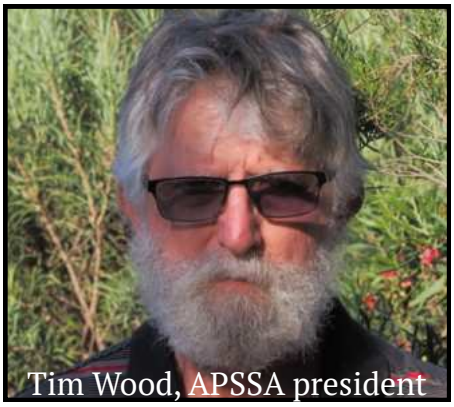
Cortinarius phalarus


Cortinarius porphyroideus

At right is the extraordinary, but tiny, ***C. porphyroideus***, growing in the N***othofagus*** forests of NZ, providing the same mycorrhizal benefits as others of its genus. What an organism!

APSSA AGM outcomes

At the AGM held on 26 March, two new members were elected to Council: ***Pat Easom*** and ***Madeleine Karutz***, both from the COOTS group. We farewelled ***Leonore Swanson*** and ***Margaret Lee***, who both retired from Council after many years service. APSSA President, ***Tim Wood***, praised the contribution of both these wonderful women in his President's Report:


Tim Wood, APSSA president

I am pleased to present my President's report for APSSA 67th AGM. It is interesting that there has always been a focus on both bringing beautiful native garden plants to the general public's attention, and on conservation of local plants and preservation of bio-diversity. This year's Council has kept both these goals in mind whilst making its decisions.

Jeff Reid has found that there is a public demand to learning propagation techniques for native plants, and Jeff has a tried and true way to achieve this with his COOTS group. The bonus is Jeff gets help with COOTS conservation projects as well. This demand has been helped by the use of social media such as Facebook, and is to be welcomed by all APS members. I am sure none of you need reminding that Jeff's association with COOTS is now over 35 years at 7 locations. COOTS members also refurbished our Goodwood clubrooms which have been re-painted, had new vinyl flooring installed and an accessible toilet. The provision of wi-fi has seen the clubrooms are now suitable for meetings of the Adelaide Group, NOSSA and Butterfly Conservation SA. The refurbishment also included provision of shade-houses, to aid propagation. It is interesting to note that the nearby Goodwood railway station is seen as a bonus for COOTS members.


Refurbished clubrooms

The annual Plant sale and its future was discussed and Council agreed to continue the autumn plant sale, at Urrbrae, and supported by COOTS. A trial Spring sale with NOSSA didn't work out. Council felt we couldn't run a stand alone Spring plant sale but if there was enough interest, might look at joining in with Barossa Bushgardens Spring sale.

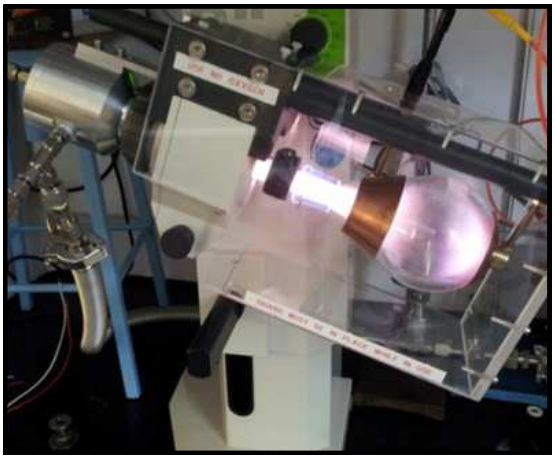
Whilst we are a plant group, Council has to ensure we use our assets wisely. ***Alice McCleary*** our Treasurer has provided Council with excellent guidance. Alice recommended we change banks which we did from BankSA to ANZ as a bank that met our needs, for example convenient change of signatures, option to not get paper statements, easy to use authorisation on-line and satisfactory interest rates. Bank signatories currently are President. Vice-President, Treasurer and our admin officer. You will see from our audited financial statements that we have now used the Kollosche and Lothian bequests. The Burgess bequest is being held over for conference contingencies.

When looking at our assets, including the Kollosche and Lothian bequests, Council felt we could achieve more for preservation of our native flora by supporting local botanical research. We asked for expressions of interest and were able to chose two projects to support. The name Kollosche will be acknowledged by the University in their research papers. The projects chosen were

1. ***Growing old and tolerant: How does drought tolerance vary across life stages in Eucalyptus and Acacia trees?*** Ilaine Silveira Matos – Lecturer, University of Adelaide ($29,722.50)
2. ***Walking together with First Nations people to progress impactful research on South Australian plants for healthy living: knowledge sharing, optimising propagation, and germplasm resource collection.*** ($33,600) Dr Kate Delaporte

Thanks to ***Hans Griesser*** for providing APSSA with a suitable contract to formally fund these research projects with the University of Adelaide, which since the contract was signed has become Adelaide University. We expect to hear progress reports on both of these projects at the National conference in Alice Springs this August.

Hans also heard of another opportunity and presented a proposal that APSSA support a research project by a team of researchers from the University of Adelaide to investigate the use of Gas Plasma Technology to improve seed germination. Initial results suggest that this technique of removing the hard waxy layer on the seed coat using gas plasma treatment is more effective than soaking in hot water or using smoke water. The seed remains dry and can be stored prior to planting. Council decided it will give a grant of $5000 toward this research.



The gas plasma euqipment

The new online newsletter ***Marginata*** edited by Alice McCleary has proved to be a boon for APSSA. ***John Fleming*** has tracked downloads and they show above average usage. Alice's energy and passion is obvious to see, and is reflected in a newsletter that entices you to read it. I hope you are encouraged to forward some photos and articles.

Hans Griesser and I met with Dan Duval – the senior seed collection officer at the ***Herbarium***. We discussed how APSSA could partner to benefit both organisations. Dan would like future help in gathering plant population information by surveying target threatened species, probably recording the information on ***iNaturalist***. Council is following this possibility up, and we will let know in the newsletter how you can be involved. Another area Council is looking at is starting an Adelaide Hills group.

South Australia is hosting this year's national conference, "Amazing Arid Australia" together with APS Alice Springs, in Alice Springs from 24th–28th August this year. This is the first APS conference looking at the 70% of Australia that is arid – its landforms, ecology and flora and will give conference attendees a unique experience. We are happy with the speakers we have enlisted and the organising committee are looking forward to presenting it.

Margaret Lee on her 90th birthday

Council reappointed Rae Dunning as our admin officer again this year. She is efficient and reliable and keeps us all on track. Speaking of admin officers, in 1958 a young Margaret Ekin Smyth helped, by Noel Lothian, organised a meeting that became SGAP. Margaret was appointed assistant secretary and tonight is retiring from council. On your behalf I thank Margaret Lee for her dedication to APS. She was made a Life Member of APS in 1980, and was awarded the Ivan Holliday medal in 2008. Her admission into the SA Environment Hall of Fame in 2022 was well deserved. We are also farewelling another stalwart in Leonore Swanson tonight, and again on your behalf I thank Leonore for her dedication. Words seems insufficient at this time, but Margaret and Leonore can be proud that they helped make APSSA the society what it is today.

Leonore Swanson

We are delighted to welcome two news Councillors, Madeleine Karutz and Pat Easom, both from COOTS.

Madeleine Karutz on Arbour Day

Pat Easom

At the last meeting Council learned of an unexpected bequest from a former SGAP member Ron Donoghue. It will take the new Council a while to evaluate the best use of this bequest, and suggestions are welcome from any members. [Ed: See below for more about this generous bequest.]

In closing I thank all Councillors this year for their contributions. In our collective decision making all contributions were valued and respected. Jeff Reid's unfortunate consequences of a fall led to APSSA briefly not having a quorum at meetings and I thank Pat Eason from the COOTS group for being co-opted to help make a quorum and allow council decision making.

Tim Wood
APSSA President

Major Bequest from Ron Donoghue

In mid-February, the Society was advised that we are the sole beneficiary of the estate of Robert (Ron) Donoghue, a former COOTS member who lived in the Hills. This came as a complete shock, and we are gradually learning more about this amazing gift to us.


Tungkillo property

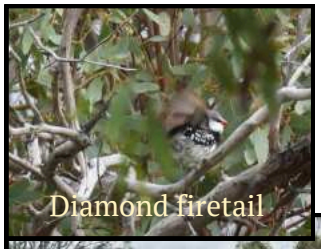
Ron was a Vietnam veteran, which left him with a life-long distrust of authority. He chose to live alone in a caravan on an isolated property at Tungkillo with no power. His family was COOTS, and he was a key volunteer in the COOTS group for around 40 years - enjoying the open air, natural environment and freedom of being among like-minded people. Jeff Reid was his closest friend, and arranged his funeral. Jeff says he was not surprised Ron chose to bequeath all his assets to APSSA, although he had no prior knowledge of Ron's will.


Stumpy-tail lizard relaxing at Tungkillo.


The property is underlaid by sandstone

Ron's estate is still being finalised, but the executor has advised us that it consists of his property at Tungkillo - a degraded 14 acre bush site which Ron was replanting assiduously despite rabbit and kangaroo attack. There is also a substantial amount of cash, some vehicles, and an incredible amount of detritus on the property!

In early April the APSSA Council and some Group leaders visited Tungkillo, to get our first glimpse of the property so we can begin to consider how best to use this wonderful gift. These pictures, taken after autumn rain, show how lucky we have been!


Diamond firetail

Scientific plant names

In the last article on scientific plant names, we looked at some of the more outlandish examples of species names, as well as those named after people. This article explores plant suffixes which are more useful - they describe something about the plant which helps identify exactly which species is under consideration.

Let's start with colour names. Since plant names tend to Latin or Greek origins, colour names may not be immediately familiar to English speakers. However, with a little practice it is easy to become conident with the different colour-related words, and they pop up everywhere in our native plant names.

Usually the colour word will describe the flowers - but the colour of bark, leaves, gum/resin, spines and other plant parts may be highlighted in the name.

Colours

Black: mela-, niger, nigrans (eg ***Kennedia Nigricans*** - climber with black flowers)
White: leuc-, niv-, alb- (eg ***Eucalyptus alba*** - white bark and flowers)
Silver, blue/grey: argent-, glauc- (eg ***Acacia glaucoptera***, blue/green wing leaves)
Yellow/gold: chrys-, xantho-, flav-, lut-, aur- (eg ***Xanthorrhoea sp*** - yellow resin)
Reds: ruf-, rub-, ros-, eryth-, fer-, ferr-, flamm-, haem-, cocc (eg ***Grev. coccinea***)
Purple: purpur-, viol-, indig- (eg ***Acacia baileyana purpurea***, with purple leaves)
Green: vir-, ver-, verd- (eg ***Anigozanthos viridis***, a green-flowered kangaroo paw)
Blue: cyan, caerul- (eg ***Commelina cyanea,*** an intensely-blue-flowered herb)

Correa alba - pink form! Nature always wins over the rules of humans!

The various *parts* of a plant are often featured in its name, usually where that part is unusual in some way, and helps distinguish it from others of its genus.

Dendrobium speciosum, in full flight. 60 spikes x 100 flower/spike = 6,000 flowers...

Plant parts

Flower and parts: flora, -anth, -stemon, -styla, (eg ***Styphelia tubiflora***, tubelike flowers).
Leaf: -folia, -phylla (eg ***Scaevola crassifolia*** has thick leaves, "crass" meaning "thick").
Veins: -nerv (eg ***Conostylis crassinerva*** has thick leaf nerves).
Fruit/seed: -carpa, -sperma, -spora, -gyne (Eg ***Stenocarpus cryptocarpus***, hidden fruits)
Head: -cephalus (eg ***Crysocephalum*** sp, *golden* headed groundcover).
Root: -rhiz ... ***Rhizanthella*** sp, WA underground orchids. A very odd genus indeed!
Tree: -dend (eg ***Dendrobium*** sp, orchids which live in trees (ie they are *epiphytic*).
Wood: -oxylon (eg ***Eucalyptus leucoxylon***, whitish wood and light bark).
Beard/hairs: -pogon, com, trich, pil (eg ***Leucopogon*** sp, petal tube has a white beard.)

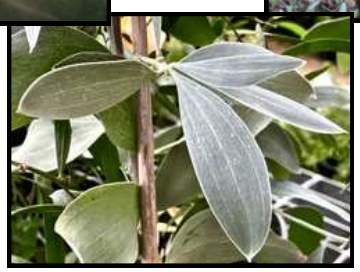
This leads on to combining colours and plant parts in many plant names to provide more specificity. Try your hand at matching up the names below with the plants at right, using the above naming hints.

1. Darwinia glaucophylla
2. Eucalyptus macrocarpa
3. Acacia binervia
4. Xanthostemon chryanthus

A

B

C



D

Answers overleaf

[Here is an excellent article](#) with lots of scientific prefixes and suffixes to help decode plant names.

Bonsai

Hakea clavata (Jim)

Many thanks to Jim Hayward (Fleurieu Group) and Sandra McKenzie (NYP Group) for these wonderful photos of Australian native bonsai. Jim and Sandra belong to several SA and Victorian bonsai groups.

Kunzea baxteri (Sandra)

Brachychiton rupestris, the Queensland bootle tree, with its root ball "washed down" to "age" it. (Jim)

Callitris verrucosa, in the style of traditional Japanese pine bonsai. (Jim)

Jim says: "Can you bonsai a gum? Of course you can!" This is ***Eucalyptus kruseana***. (Jim)

Kunzea ambigua with its lovely pink flowers. (Jim)

Eremophila maculata (orange form) has done well. Bonsai flowers are not miniaturised, but retain their normal size (Jim).

This gorgeous ***Leptospermum Red Rubrum*** has been flowering for several weeks (Sandra)

Something very special - ***Mariana sedifolia***, Pearl Bluebush. Note the partly washed out root ball, adding to the aged look of the plant (Jim).

Prev page quiz:
1B
2A
3D
4C

Sandra is very proud of this lovely ***Melaleuca pentagona ssp latifolia,*** in full flower

Choosing the right container for a bonsai is a big part of the process. Sandra has had fun with this ***Melaleuca teretifolia*** **'Georgiana Molloy'** .

Jim's ***Melaleuca nesophila*** is not in flower, but is developing a lovely contorted shape.

At one stage there was an ANPSA Bonsai Study Group, but if has been in recess for many years. Using natives for bonsai is still a developing art, and takes great patience and constant attention. Bonsai are not indoor pot pants - they need to grow outside in the same conditions the full-size plant would enjoy - which may mean full sun. This means constant watering in summer, given the tiny container size. There are many tricks to making a plant look old - which can even include gouging out part of the stem and setting fire to it, to create a gnarled, burnt look! Essentially, bonsia is about beautiful deception, manipulating plants to make them look much older than they are. These specimens of Jim and Sandra show how this can be achieved. Thanks so much for sharing them.

Eremophila Study Group - SA Chapter

Cutting swap

Saturday 2 May

Blyth Cinema

Tour of Blyth plantation

Share knowledge

10am start, lunch 12.00-1:30, and 2pm-4pm tour.

For more info email Tim Wood: drspock52@gmail.com

Learn...

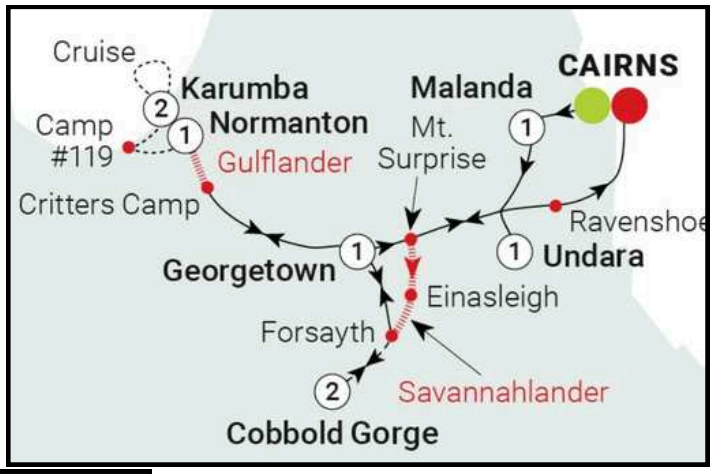
Study Groups

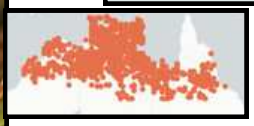
Study Groups cover a broad range of species and topics. Click here for a list of all the national Study Groups, and how to join. SG members are not obliged to become active members and can learn a lot simply by joining. Here are some snippets from recent Study Group newsletters. Where possible I have included links for the full newsletters.

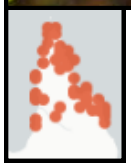
Hakea Study Group, No 89

Email hakeaholic@gmail.com $10 pa

The SG leader discusses two rail journeys he recently enjoyed in FNQ: The Gulflander, and the Savannahlander. Looks marvellous! No hakeas on either rail trip, but while in the Cairns area he sought out tropical species ***H. pedunculata, H. persiehana, H. arborescens*** and ***H. plurinervia***. Some, but not all, of these species need grafting to grow outside the tropics.

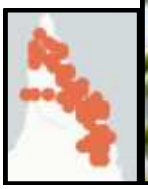






H. penduncuata ***H. arborescens***

Cairns: 2000mm | ~~+SW~~ | Acid | Sand



H. persiehana

SG member Ian Evans provides a detailed description of his grafting successes and failures, discussing his techniques over several years with many hakea species. The main rootstocks he uses are ***H. salicifolia*** and **H. drupacea,** both grown from seed – with ***H. drupace***a being especially compatible with most of the species he has tried. Dozens of species have been successfully grafted onto these rootstocks by Ian – his detailed descriptions of his techniques are excellent.

H. plurinervia

Grevillea Study Group, No 132

Email: grevilleanews@gmail.com, Free

This SG has 5 "chapters", with one being based in South Australia. The local chapter leader is Alf Stephens, and Alf is happy to take questions and comments about grevilleas from APSSA members.

There was an interesting comment from a northern NSW member about his grafted grevillea "standards" dying after 1800mm of rain last winter. Ten of his 12 standards have died, with the top scion dying first, followed by the rootstock. He surmised that once the top has died, the rootstock just "decides to give up". Have SA members had problems with these standards dying? Let me know.

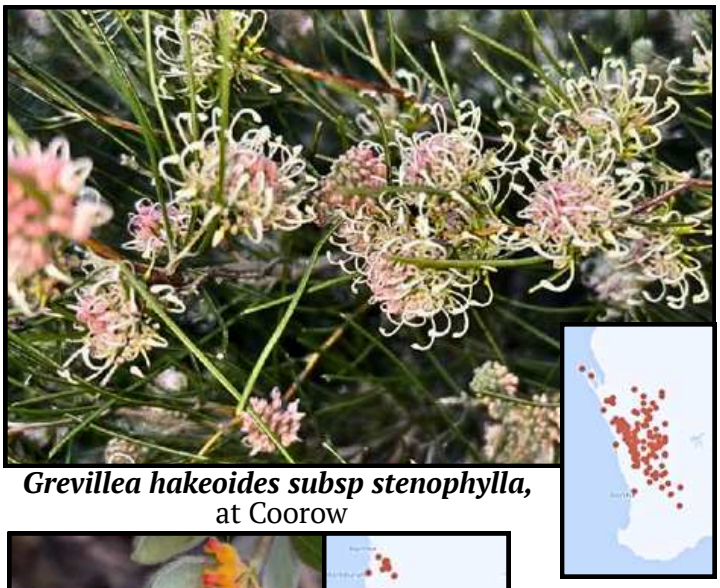
A major revision of the reference work "Grevillea" is being planned by the SG. This revision is a mammoth task, with about 150 species requiring major revisions due to new research and changed interpretation of historical information.

The main article in the SG newsletter is a sumptuous photo essay (Part 1) of an SG roadtrip in WA last September. Here are some highlights.

Helena Valley: a pale pink form of ***Grevillea endlicheriana***

Grevillea pinifolia. A small number of plants of this attractive small grevillea found at 2 locations

Coorow-Eneabba area: the rare ***Grevillea gillingarra*** – currently only known from 3 plants that were in poor condition



Grevillea hakeoides subsp stenophylla, at Coorow

Grevillea althoferorum subsp. althoferorum was a challenge to find. With only a couple of dead plants found at the recorded location, it was not looking good. However, a broader look around the area managed to find a couple of groups of plants in better condition.

Busselton: ***Grevillea centristigma*** spotted a little way down the road was not typical for the species. A closer look at this group might be needed.

Mt William: after a steep climb we were looking at a ***possible new species*** with flat leaves ***related to Grevillea prominens***.

Busselton: three varieties of ***Grevillea brachystylis***. The differences are obvious.

True ***G. brachystylis***

G brachystylis subsp Grandis

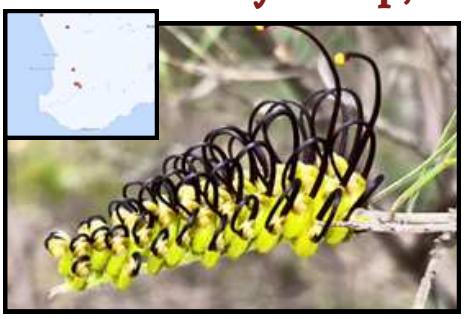
Affiliated species??

Also in the SG newsletter: a Masters student describes research on the pollination of ***Grevillea steiglitziana***, an endangered shrub restricted to the Brisbane Ranges National Park (west of Melbourne) and parts of Werribee Gorge State Park. This species has a low spreading habit, reaching around 1m high and 2m across. Cameras were set up to see how pollination was occurring. ***G. steiglitziana*** is pollinated by at least six different honeyeater species as well as striated thornbills. However, the most common visitors by far were the yellow-faced honeyeater and eastern spinebill. Insects observed included European honeybees, common hoverflies and a species of native bee, but these were far less effective pollinators than the honeyeaters, whose long beaks can reach into the long stigma-nectary and thus brush the pollen with their foreheads. No mammal pollinators were recorded. The student also found that populations of yellow-faced honeyeater and eastern spinebill were higher in that part of the Brisbane Ranges in spring when this grevillea was in flower, but the birds went elsewhere in summer.

Yellow-faced honeyeater with pink Grevillea pollen deposited onto its head

Grevillea Study Group, No 133

Email: grevilleanews@gmail.com, Free, full newsletter here.



This newsletter continues the marvellous photo essay from the previous newsletter. In the interest of space, I will just give you a taste. Here is gorgeous ***Grevillea crowleyae.*** "We were only able to find 3 plants which were all starting to senesce. Also observed was that many of the flowers were lying on the ground - having been broken off by birds. There were still some of the stunning flowers to be found hidden inside the bushes." Click on the link above to read the full newsletter.

Dryandra Study Group, No 90

Email: banksia@westnet.com.au, Free, full newsletter here.

The Dryandra SG has continued its work, despite Dryandras being moved into the Banksia genus in 2007. Dryandras certainly have significant visual differences to most banksias, and enthusiasm for the "old" dryandra name remains strong, especially in WA, where all these plants hail from. The SG still refers to the plants with their ***Dryandra*** suffix, rather than Banksia. I will follow their naming for this summary.

The bulk of the newsletter comprises a very comprehensive set of botanical drawings of dryandra follicles and seeds. The artist is Margaret Pieroni, who prepared the drawings for the quintessential reference book on the genus (as it then was), *The Dryandras*. This list has been updated for new addiions and name changes. If you are travelling to WA, Margaret's drawings in this newsletter will be invaluable for identification.

A new species, ***Dryandra Hoffman*** (right***),*** has been discovered growing in jarrah forest. It has extremely hairy inflorescence bracts.

Dryandra Hoffman

***Dryandra nivea* 'Morangup'**

Another interesting plant featured in the newsletter is ***Dryandra nivea* 'Morangup**, growing here (left) as understory in a small valley under eucalypts. The distinctive red/green colour in uniform across the plant - and the foliage is actally extensions of the branches!

These curious objects are buds of ***Dryandra aurantia***, a declared rare plant. Isn't nature wonderful!

Eremophila Study Group, No 150

Email: lthorburn@viria.com.au, $5

The feature species in this SG newsletter is ***Eremophila galeata***, an large-calyxed species from central WA, known as Terpentine Bush (left). It becomes even larger after the flower drops off, when the remaining calyx turns pink (right). Bees use the sticky resin on the leaves to make propolis, a substance used to defend their hives - a process which can damage the plant in extremes. ***E galeata*** is drought and frost hardy. propagation is by grafting and cuttings (but slow).

There is a very detailed congratulatory article for Ken Warnes, founder of the Eremophila SG, who was awarded an OAM in the Australia Day Honours list. Congratulations to Ken, a long-term APSSA member.

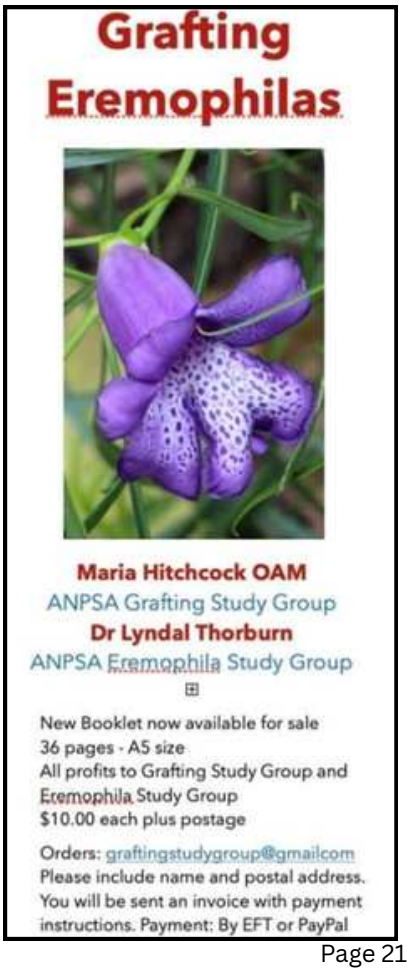
The newsletter also celebrates the release of two eremophila stamps! With letters becoming so rare - especially those using actual stamps - it is a pity that few Australians will probably see these stamps.

An SG member from Gundagai shares the story of his garden during recent drought conditions, and the successes and failures of his eremophila propagation efforts.

Several new eremophila cultivars are discussed, including ***Eremophila glabra x* 'Winter Morn'** (left), which was developed from material sourced from the SG. Another series of cultivars - all called '**Red Desert**' - is examined and the many differences between them noted.

There is a comprehensive list of Eremophila species, and the frost limit (in °C) listed for each one: indispensable information if you are growing these plants in frosty areas.

Many eremophilas are propagated by grafting, and the SG is active in supporting grafting. It sells Parafilm by the metre - $2 per metre plus very modest postage, and small sealable plastic bags to sit over the graft - $2 for 50 bags. Most importantly, they have worked with the Grafting SG to produce a booklet called ***"Grafting Eremophilas".*** Sales of the book support the SGs, so order yours now! Only $10 from graftingstudygroup@gmail.com



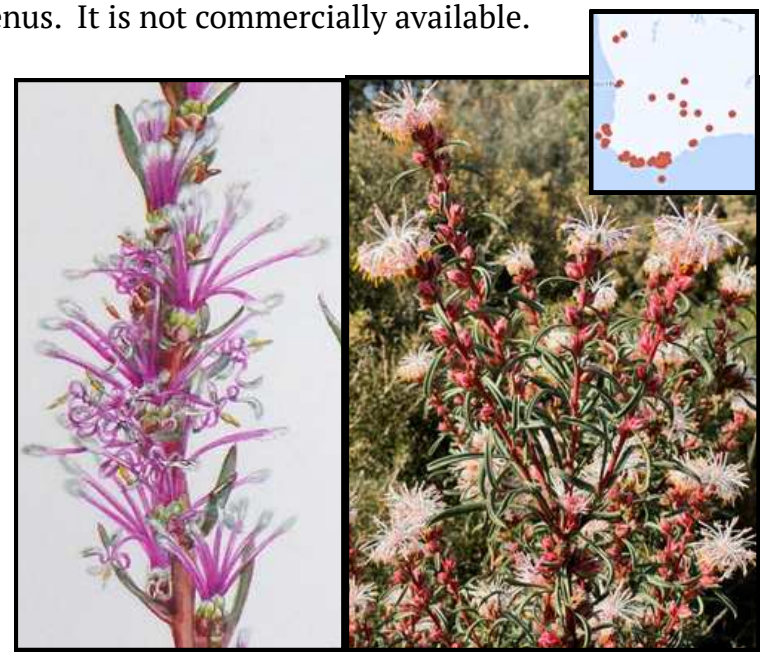
The SG is supporting several research projects by supplying source material - from across Australia - for various interesting experiments being conducted by UQ. All in all this is a very active SG with a strong Sub-Group based in SA, and lots of national interactions for advice, grafting and cutting material, and sharing knowledge. The next SA meeting is **Saturday 2 May, at the Blyth Cinema**, Blyth at 10am. Contact Tim Wood for more information.

A natural hybrid of the featured species, ***E. galeata,*** crossed with ***E platycalyx.*** (left)

At right is one of several different 'Desert Red' cultivars on the market.

The feature species in this newsletter are ***Petrophile media*** and ***Isopogon axillaris***

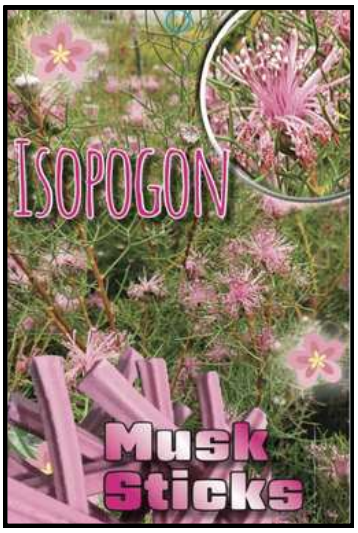
Petrophile media (left) is an explosion of yellow. It is a low and spreading shrub, and the flowers have orangey tips when viewed up close. It is widely distributed in SW WA, including on road sides, and flowers in November - late for the genus. It is not commercially available.



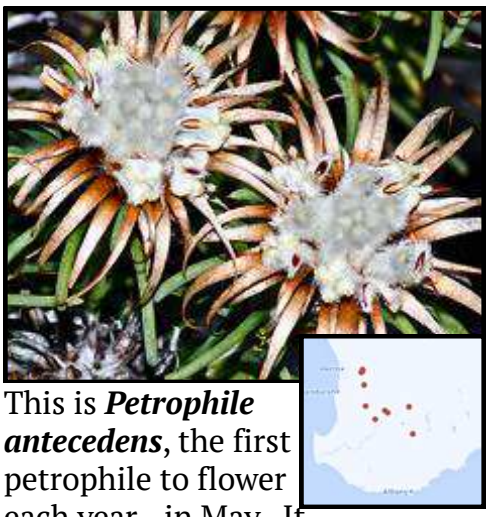
Isopogon axillaris (right) is a much bigger plant - upright in habit and up to 2m in height. There are two quite different forms, both spectacular in flower. ***I. axillaris*** grows in swampy coastal sand from Augusta round to Albany in WA. It is not available commercially, but some impressive specimens are growing in Pangarinda Botanic Gadens at Wellington in SA! Cuttings strike readily.

Isopogon anethifolus, a Sydney region species, at the ANBG.

A key aim of this SG is "getting I&Ps into gardens", and it has worked with Native Plant Wholesalers of Mt Gambier to develop a new cultivar - ***Isopogon*** **'Musk Sticks' -** for commercial release. A small payment will go to the SG from each sale to fund further research The label is at right - there are no photos of the plant yet available publicly.

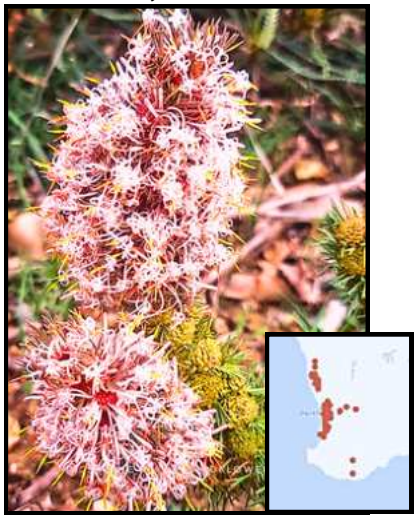


Petrophile canescens is another species being considered by the SG for horticulture.

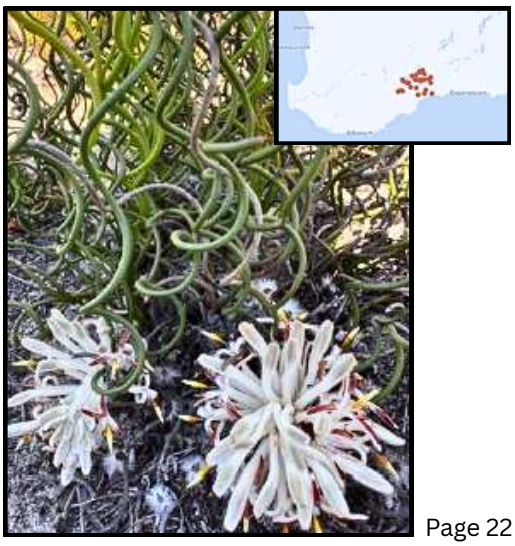


This is ***Petrophile antecedens***, the first petrophile to flower each year - in May. It has prickles at the end of each leaf.

This confection is ***Isopogon asper***, the "most impressive example of this species" ever seen by the SG leaders



And here is ***Petrophile helicophylla***, with its distinctive corkscrew leaves. it deserves to be in cultivation!



With over 1,000 acacia species in Australia, this SG has plenty of material to work with. The newsletter is a series of snippets. Here are some highlights.

***Acacia binervia* 'Sterling Silver'**, seen above at the ANBG. {Ed: I bought one of these at the ANPSA conference in Kiama in 2022, and it has grown very well at Goolwa. It is a robust ground cover, with vertical growth needing pruning. Mine has not yet flowered, and cutttings have not been successful.]

Acacia siculiformis, right, flourishing in the World Garden at Lullingstone Castle, SE of London. The species has proved hardy to -14°C. It has sharp tips on the phyllode tips, hence its common name Dagger Wattle.

Research being done in California is seeking to find new drought-tolerant groundcovers to reduce agricultural and municipal irrigation water requirements and bring down city temperatures. The Australian species tested - ***Acacia redolen***s from SW WA - has proved particularly effective: it is "*a climate-resilient and water-efficient groundcover, offering substantial cooling and aesthetic performance under minimal irrigation*".

Low form of ***A. redolens***

Acacia truncata, Mandurah form. The species is found on the WA coast, north and south of Perth. The Mandurah variant has fascinating "cut-off" phyllodes.

It is believed that ***Acacia truncata*** was one of the first two Australian plants ever collected by Europeans, in 1697. The other was ***Synaphea spinulosa***.

This SG newsletter (clickable link above) contains a list of all 600 species of acacias held in the SG Seed Bank, which are free for SG members. A good reason to join!

Seeds on ***A. dealbata***

Deakin University is conducting the first ever research into the nutritional composition of ***Acacia dealbata*** seeds. ***A. dealbata*** was chosen for its long use as a food by SE Australian aboriginal people, its quick growth, and its ability to produce large quantities of seeds within 4-5 years of planting.

"***A. dealbata*** *seeds demonstrated a balanced nutritional profile with rich protein content and essential amino acids. Overall, the nutritional profile was found to be comparable to, or exceed that of many widely consumed grains, nuts, and seeds, positioning the seeds as a potential source of plant-based nutrition. Antinutritional assays indicated safe concentrations of djenkolic acid and phytic acid for human consumption.*"

One downside is that ***A. dealbata*** has become highly weedy in many parts of the world, so additional food sources might come at the cost of major environmental damage.

Correa Study Group, No 71

Email: dlhandscombe@bigpond.com, Free. Full newsletter here.

The newsletter is mainly composed of short articles by SG members about their gardens and in particular, which species coped with severe drought, bushfire and heat. There are also lots of photos from bush trips and public gardens. The sun and shade requirements for correas seems to be a frequent issue, and one we still debate here in SA.

Correa lawrenceanas growing in full sun and used as screen. They can grow to 8m!

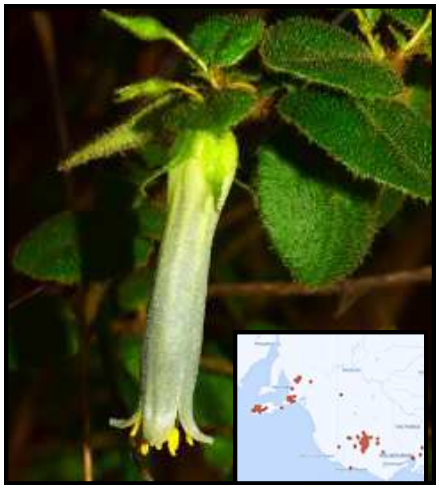
***Correa reflexa var scabridula* 'Desert Glow'**

An SG member from the Grampians described the summer of 2024 as "the worst disaster our garden has ever experienced". He decribes ***Correa Glabra*** as the toughest survivor, followed by ***C. pulchella***.

C. reflexa var reflexa was decimated *en masse,* but all other varieties of ***reflexa*** hung on superbly.

Correa reflexa var angustifolia

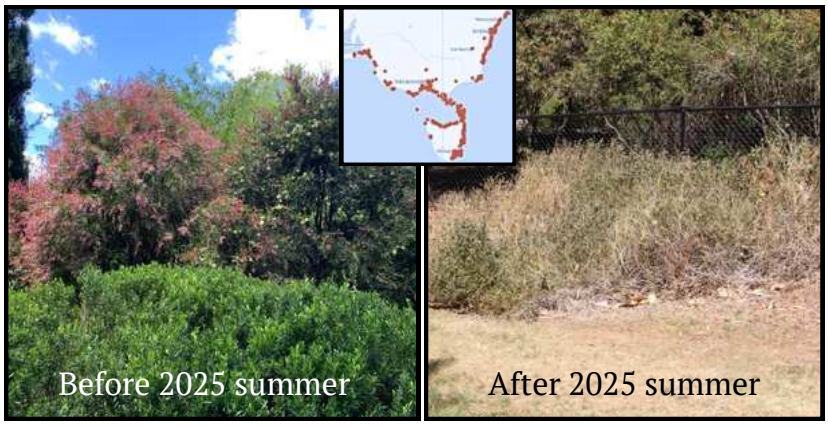
He was particuarly impressed with local variety ***C. reflexa var augustifolia*** (above right), and a natural hybrid of this plant with ***C. aemula*** (right).



Correa reflexa var scabridula from the deserts and arid areas of western Victoria has proven to be one of the toughest of the entire species. He discovered an outstanding specimen north of Little Desert, and had it registered as **'Desert Glow'**, above.

Another Grampians SG member walked the Grampians firegrounds and discovered the species named above as among the first plants beginning to flower again, including ***C. aemula***, left.

Correa reflexa var angustifolia x Correa aemula



C. alba, before and after

A Canberra SG member describes the double hedge at their property, comprising ***Callistemon* 'Firebrand'** at the back and ***Correa alba*** in front - 96 correas in all! The correas were planted from 2007 to 2025, grew vigorously, and were much admired... However, the extraordinarily hot summer last year left huge "bleached" areas in the correas in the hottest sun. Some patching-up in the shadier areas was done with ***C. bauerlenii***, Chef's Cap Correa, and ***C. glabra*** is being considered for the sunniest spots. Irrigation will also be added. (Left)

The gorgeous ***Correa alba*** pink form, growing in South Gippsland by ANPSA President Miriam Ford.

Prize winning correa from an SG member based in the UK, at an RHS show no less! There is doubt about which variety it is, but all agree it is a ***C. pulchella x,*** maybe **'Bett's Red'.**

Other Study Groups to produce newsletter in the last quarter are listed bleow. Click on the links to read the full newsletter.

Banksia Study Group, No 33 https://anpsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/banksiaSG33.pdf

Grafting Study Group, No 6 https://anpsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/graftingSG-6.pdf

Fern Study Group, No 161 https://anpsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/fern161.pdf

Australian Plants for Containers Study Group, No 47 https://anpsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/container-plants47.pdf and https://anpsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/container-plants47-addendum.pdf

Hakea Study Group, No 90 https://anpsa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/hakea90.pdf

Almost every newsletter ever published, from every Study Group, is available for free on the ANPSA website, together with detailed information and photos of hundreds of native plant species. Here is the link to the Study Groups page: https://anpsa.org.au/anpsa-study-groups/#groupOpen
Spend a pleasant hour immersing yourself in a genus you aren't so familiar with! It really is fascinating!

SG leaders in South Australia: Please let me know of any SA-based SG events before the closing date of the next newsletter, and I will publish an advertisement for the event to encourage greater local participation.

PLANTARK Find that perfect plant

A NEW WAY OF BUYING AND SELLING PLANTS AND SEEDS

Lucie from PlantArk says: *PlantArk is a new Australian-owned online marketplace dedicated exclusively to plants and seeds. It has been created to provide a simple, safe and transparent sales channel for Australian plant sellers, from nurseries to small-scale growers and collectors. Our goal is to support the local plant community by keeping trade on an Aussie platform, without complicated rules or offshore marketplaces.*

As we are still in our early growth phase, we are offering Early Adopter access, which includes:

- *Free to join*
- *Free onboarding support*
- *Special conditions reserved for early sellers*
- *Limited places per plant category*

Members who are interested can explore the platform here: https://plantark.com.au/

Lucie can be contacted by email on admin@plantark.com.au

Mounted ***dockrillia linguirormi***s orchid, $45

Tloperii Butterfly Garden Talk

by Karen Lane, Hindmarsh Island

Bitterbush Blue larvae on its host plant, ***Adriana quadripartita***

Recently the APS Fleurieu Group asked me to hold a Butterfly Garden Talk and a walk around Tloperii, so we could show participants the plants I was talking about. We also invited Butterfly Conservation Society (BCSA), Friends of Private Bushland and Cittaslow to come – especially those that had helped us with the original butterfly plantings. Twenty-eight people attended! It was a great day and thanks to Gerry Butler from BCSA. I had the BCSA display set up, and also my daughter's photographic display of butterflies and their host plants. People enjoyed seeing some bitterbush blue larvae from our ***Adriana quadripartita*** plants. Our off-grid power and rainwater systems we also of interest to participants.

Calytrix tetragona and ***Billardiera cymosa*** both growing in non-wetting old sand dunes on our place Tloperii. Both are nectar plants and attract several butterfly species, and are Hindmarsh Island plants.

Tetragona implexicoma

Pelargonium australe, a nectar plant

Scaveola calendulacea attracts the Meadow Argus butterfly

Thanks to everyone who came to the Butterfly talk – your enthusiasm is just fantastic. I hope I have also helped you along the way as well .

Bitterbush Blue

Thanks Karen for this article. In a future newsletter I will do a feature on butterfly larvae, so we all know what to protect when "grubs" are attacking our plants! [Ed.]

Meadow Argus

A social media runaway success story!

by Lynlee Sloper, of APS Northern Yorke Peninsula Group

Over 10 years ago three members were tasked to create an APS NYP Facebook page. It was used sporadically by a small number of members to post photos about our field trips, garden visits, displays, working bees and other events. Uptake was slow among our members who were reluctant to use social media.

In 2017 I decided to use our Facebook page as a way of chronicling the story of the development of our display garden. I was still working so visits were limited and posts were limited as a result. It was only when I retired in 2022 and started attending and posting on a regular basis, and more particularly when I started using the platform to advertise and generate interest in our trial nursery, that the page started to gain traction.

To me, it was the cheapest, easiest and most immediate way to promote our activities, knowledge and experiences to the wider community and a broader demographic, rather than preaching to the converted. Newspaper ads and stories are expensive and you have little control regarding timing or content.

I think followers increased from under 500 to just under 1,000 as I increased the frequency of the posts. Followers hit 1000 and increased foot traffic into our nursery and garden confirmed that Facebook was the information source that was working. I could take photos and post them immediately and people would rock up before 12 the same day! I used the same technique for our annual plant sales too, and people who did not buy the local paper or see our ads would see the Facebook post and come in.

Videos and reels (photos set to music) attract the most attention, while pretty and colourful closeups of plants in our nursery and garden also work. The breakthrough, stand out post was in February this year and was quite by accident.

We had a question from the public about propagating quandongs. I surveyed members and discovered there were heaps of different methods. Why not create a story on our page, I thought? So I did. The reaction was crazy.

Facebook provides a lot of stats to help you understand your audience. The stats say that **the quandong post and related comments from the public (it created quite a conversation) has had 20,378 views to date** and **is getting 5719% more views than my typical post.** 96% of viewers were non-followers!! Audience is mostly women over 65. We gained 42 net new followers as a result of the post.

Our follower base has increased from just over 1,000 to 1,300 since that quandong post and **subsequent posts have averaged around 6,000-8,000 views – I posted our stock list (8,842 views) and posted about *Swainsona formosa* with a great photo (6,886 views) but some have had views as low as 600. In the past 28 days we have had a 250% increase in followers, 84 net new followers and 33,000 views. Total views in the past 90 days is 74,000!!**

I have also used Instagram (250 posts since 2023, 324 followers) to map the course of the garden and nursery but focus on Facebook. Members have started to recognise the value of the social media platforms and have bravely joined up to see what I'm doing. Members have come to understand the safe, controlled way they can participate. Several members have "admin status" and assist with the technical questions from the public prompted by posts. Our page is restricted to allow only "admins" to post, to keep our page safe. We used a "page" rather than a "group" as the platform but can't really say why.

It works. Its immediate, its free, its colourful and its accessible to the wider community, unbound by print media. See the NYP Facebook site here! **And overleaf is the quandong propagation post with 20,000+ views!**

Following an enquiry from a visitor to our little nursery, I decided to do a little research and asked our experienced propagators the question...what method do you use to get quandongs to germinate?

There were several variations on the theme (as you would expect!) so I will include them all. Neville Bonney wrote a book about quandongs (*Jewel of the Australian Desert*) some years back and he has kindly given permission for his technique to be included.

With kind permission, Neville Bonney, *Jewel of the Australian Desert*:
Collect good clean seed from the previous season's crop, discard any that may be contaminated with soil (the major source of pathogenic fungal contamination), dry in a well-ventilated area over summer and store in a sealed container. Soak overnight in clean water and place on a free draining mix in a plastic bag. Drip dry vermiculite heated in an oven at 150 degrees for 1 hour and cooled is suitable. This should provide suitable moisture and oxygenation conditions to promote germination. Place in an area at about 20 degrees – temperatures above 25 or below 15 are not successful. Be vigilant in examining seed on a regular basis, removing obviously contaminated seed. After about 4 weeks, the seed should start to germinate and continue for a few months after.

David (from Jeff, COOTS)
Soak fruit 12 -24 hours. On a hot day, spread seeds on black metal sheet in the sun. They will crack open naturally. Plant individually (they don't like their roots disturbed).

Ronda (from Perry, Arid Lands Botanic Gardens)
Fill a black seedling tray with moistened propagating mix. Using a vice, crack slightly (until it just creaks). Sit ½ way in the soil. Place in a warm dark space (he puts them under his bed at home – his body heat is sufficient warmth). Tray is in a dish of water to keep moist. As they germinate, pot on. Check every 2 weeks. Best results March, April and August.

Tim (and Perry)
Wash in diluted White King to eradicate fungal spores. Rinse off with water. Add to vermiculite and seal in a plastic bag. Place in warm, dark space. After 2 weeks, rinse again in diluted plant antifungal solution. They will open naturally. Plant without host for 12 months.
Good hosts – Templetonia, saltbush

Ronda (from Brian, orchardist).
Use peat moss in a plastic bag. Keep in a fridge (12 degrees). Agitate gently. Pick out those with white shoots and plant out.

Ronda (from Murray, farmer)
Press into soil at base of eucalypts.

Wayne, horticulturalist from Tasmania. Just crack the shell. 30 degrees for germination is optimal. Leave for 30 days in styrofoam box filled with sawdust. Put a hessian bag over the top to keep moist. Keep the bag damp. He uses lucerne for host.

Other options ?
Crack and sprout in igloo
Dig a hole next to host, keep moist.
We welcome any other variations that have worked for you.

REGIONAL GROUPS

When travelling around SA, drop in on a regional activity and share your passion for our flora

NYP Region,
55 South Tce, Wallaroo Mines

https://www.facebook.com/events/1360022918597082/?checkpoint_src=any

9th May - plant sale, see p25
14th May - Monthly meeting, Coral Johnston on "iNaturalist"
30th May - nursery open, 9am - 1pm
11th June - Monthly meeting, David Sloper on "Bugs in the garden: good guys and bad guys"
27th Jun, nursery open 9am - 1pm
9th July, monthly mtg, details TBA
25th July, Nursery open, 9am - 1pm

Brinkworth Group
meets in the Brinkworth Hall, Main St, Brinkworth. Phone 0437 114 540 for details

Sun 24 May - working bee at Yacka Cemetery, 10.30am and/or 12.30pm
Sun 24 June - tea meeting at 6.30pm, Dr Michael Nash, entymologist, on the beauty of grasslands
Wed 22 July, tea meeting at 6.30pm, Nick Modra, ecologist, on Pigmy Blue Tongues and grasslands

Eastern Eyre Peninsular Group in recess

Gawler and Barossa Group
Lyndoch Institute Town Hall, centre of Lyndoch

Phone 0400 962 082 for more information. Zoom links available.

Fleurieu Group
Carrickalinga house, 17 Torrens St,
Contact swansonleonore@gmail.com or 0400 820 989 for more information

27 May - visit Beyond development ponds to see restored wetlands, 2pm
24 June - Annual Winter plant quiz, exploring plant families, 2pm
22 July - Propagation meeting at Karen's property on Hindmarsh Island, 2pm

Adelaide Group
21A Richards Tce, Goodwood

Phone 0447 995 777 for more information

Sat 9th May, Waite Arboretum guided tour, 10am at the arboretum carpark, off Fullarton Rd.

COOTS Group
21A Richards Tce, Goodwood
Phone:0447 995 777

Nangawooka Open Day (above) on Sunday April 26 was very successful with more than 500 people coming to buy plants and look at the garden. There was an excellent range of plants available and Friends of Nangawooka provided refreshments to help make it a very enjoyable day. The Spring Open Day will be on September 13.

A propagation workshop at The Shed, run by COOTS. Most participants are new to native plants

Contributions are welcome - and essential!

Member contributions are the lifeblood of a membership newsletter. Large and small items are welcome – we are aiming for an informal and chatty document that will help connect members to each other and the wonderful natural world around us.

Experienced and beginners alike will, we hope, feel comfortable in making a contribution.

Some of the things you may like to share are:

- **photos, anecdotes, scientific information, propagation** and any other interesting aspect of Australian native plants.
- **photos of social events** such as plant sales, speakers and their presentations, meeting activities, nursery work, conservation projects, workshops, award nights, Christmas parties etc.
- **diary dates for APSSA and regional activities**, and any other organisation with similar aims which is holding an event you think others may be interested in. Remember that the Newsletter is quarterly (1 Feb, May, Aug and Nov), so take that into account when considering which events to send in.
- successful **grant applications**, with followup photos once the grant is completed.
- **suggestions for newsletter ideas**
- **corrections and complaints!** We can all learn from each other, so if a plant is wrongly labelled or information is wrong or incomplete, tell us so we can pass it on. Try to be polite!

When sending photos of plants, please include (**if at all possible**):

- your name and suburb/town
- full name of plant if known
- a paragraph short note on why it is noteworthy
- general location of where photo was taken, and month
- age of the plant, if know.

If you don't know some or all of this information, send in whatever you have!

Species vs cultivars

Of course we are all very interested in naturally-occurring species of native plants, but we cannot ignore the fact that breeders are constantly introducing new cultivars and grafted plants which have useful characteristics in many settings. In other situations only natural species are appropriate. The broad Constitutional aims of APSSA have room for both species and cultivars. The newsletter welcomes photos of cultivars and grafted plants, with appropriate identification.

Editor's email address: newsletter@australianplantssa.asn.au

Letters to the Editor welcome!

Australian Plants Society – South Australian Region Inc

PO Box 304
Unley SA 5061

Since October 2025, APSSA has had a new bank account. If you are transferring money to us for any reason, please contact our administration officer, Rae Dunning, at office@australianplantssa.asn.au to request bank details.

Contact details for our officebearers

Role	Email address - these are live links and clicking on them will enable direct emails to the person	Person the email goes to:
Council	council@australianplantssa.asn.au	All Councillors
President	president@australianplantssa.asn.au	Tim Wood
Vice President	vicepresident@australianplantssa.asn.au	Hans Griesser
Secretary	secretary@australianplantssa.asn.au	Rae Dunning
Treasurer	treasurer@australianplantssa.asn.au	Alice McCleary
Membership	membership@australianplantssa.asn.au	Rae Dunning
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Librarian	librarian@australianplantssa.asn.au	David Lindley
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Conservation	conservation@australianplantssa.asn.au	David Lindley
Administration	office@australianplantssa.asn.au	Rae Dunning
Website	website@australianplantssa.asn.au	John Fleming

Photo credits, websites and location map credits include:

- Australian Native Plants Society (Australia)
- Florabase, the Western Australian flora
- APSSA website
- Australian Native Plants NSW
- Atlas of Living Australia
- Lucid Central
- Australian National Herbarium
- "*Which Native Tree?*" (NZ), Andrew Crowe
- *The Urban Bush Telegraph*, Winter 2005
- Nick Nicholls
- "*Attractiing Butterflies to your Garden*", Hunt, Grund, Keans and Forrest
- Flora of South Australia
- Plants of the World Online (Kew)
- ResearchGate
- Australasian Virtual Herbarium
- ANPSA Study Group newsletters contributors and photographers
- SA Seed Conservation Centre
- "*Australian Native Plants*", Wrigley & Fagg, 2024
- Alice McCleary
- Dave's Garden (https://davesgarden.com
- Te Ara, the Encyclopedia of New Zealand
- Tim Wood
- Butterfly Conservation SA
- World Flora Online