

Last meeting, Lesley and Norm Hulands property at Moruya

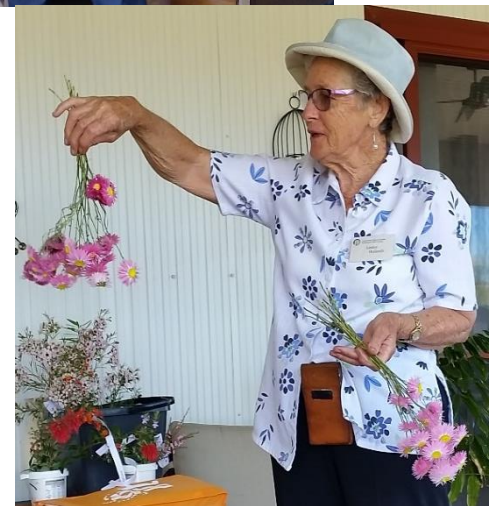
Show and Tell

The restrictions placed on all gatherings due to the current pandemic offered little impediment to our enjoyment on a glorious spring day. Our venue is a



sprawling small acreage with plenty of space to gather along a long wide verandah, although getting the attention of everyone during the show and tell session proved a little problematic.

There was no shortage of specimens on show, and a decidedly enthusiastic number of presenters keen to let us all know that, yes, spring is definitely here. **Lesley** was given first opportunity to show off her magnificent display of *Rhodanthe chlorocephala* which is massed around the house. We noted that many of the plants held multiple flower heads, instead of the usual single bloom. Lesley offered that she is generous when mulching these beds with composted horse manure from the patient 'Nugget'.



You might remember that Norm had some less than favourable words about this gentle supplier of plant food, complaining that he reaches across the fence to steal **Banksia** flowers from treasured *B. menziesii* and *B. media*.

The following list provides some insight into the variety of plants members are growing. Contributors included Di. Clark, Jo Benyon, Annie Hood, Geoff Gosling, Phil Trickett, Jenny Liney, John Knight, Marj Apthorpe,





and Norm rounded off the session with a story about his well grown *Thelychiton speciosus* (syn *Dendrobium speciosum*) Norm discussed the meaning of **Thelychiton**, derived from two Greek words **thely**, female, and **chiton**, covered, which could be described as a well dressed woman. Certainly the magnificent flower spikes do dress the plant magnificently, although this is not how the botanists came up with the name. It was actually referring to the covered flowers of a couple of Norfolk Island species in which the flowers are **cleistogamous**, that is self-pollinating.

The name **Dendrobium** means **tree living**, alluding to the plants being epiphytic, although *D. speciosum* is widely known as Rock Lily for its preference of establishing on rock surfaces.

Listed alphabetically, the following plants were discussed by the various presenters.

Anigosanthos flavidus forms, *A. humilis* hybrids, *Astartea* ‘Winter Pink’, affinities of which is difficult to establish, so botanists proposed joining two Genera, *Astartea* and *Baeckea* to come up with **Astackea**.

Boronia megastigma, the delightful perfume of which permeated the verandah area, *Bulbine bulbosa*, *B. glauca*, a strong growing plant with long and colourful flowers stalks,

Chamelaucium uncinatum and *C. uncinatum* hybrid, *Chorizema cordatum* and *C. ilicifolium*, both of which we were assured grow and flower well in shade,

Dampiera diversifolia, *D. stenophylla*, *D. hederacea*

Eucalyptus leucoxydon rosea dwf

Goodenia ovata hybrid.

Grevilleas were the star performers, with most members offering some, including many cultivars which are becoming more ubiquitous. Our photos show Jo Benyon, Annie Hood and Marjorie Apthorpe singing praises of their favourites.



Plants included 2 forms of *Grevillea alpina* from the Grampians,

G. arenaria ssp canescens x *G. 'Fireworks'* (a *G. alpina* cross by Peter Ollerenshaw). This plant was registered by prominent Sydney grower Brian Roach as *Grevillea 'Spider Mist'*.

G. 'Bonnie Prince Charlie',

G. caleyi, and a *G. caleyi* hybrid with *G.*

'Bronze Rambler' known as *G. 'Burgundy Blaze'*,

G. 'Caloundra Gem', *G. 'Flamingo'*,

G. 'Flora Mason' a medium shrub very similar to *G. 'Winpara Gem'*,

G. 'Jelly Baby', a registered cross between *G. lavandulacea* and *G. alpina*,

G. juniperina red fl, *G. juniperina* orange fl, *G. juniperina* yellow fl., and some *G. juniperina* hybrids such as *G. 'New Blood'*,

G. 'Lady O', which is a cross between *G. rhyolitica* and *G. victoriae* hybrid,

G. lineariifolia and *G. patulifolia*, both from Milton,

G. 'Moonlight', *G. rhyolitica 'Deua Flame'*,

G. sericea 'Collaroy Plateau', which flowers all year,

G. 'Tangerine', *G. victoriae* mountains form, and

G. 'Currowan', which Marj had come up in her garden, and believed to be a hybrid of *G. victoriae* x *G. rhyolitica*. This attractive and floriferous plant is a bit over 1m high, but looks like it might get bigger.

I took the opportunity to run the plant through Grevillea keys to see what parentage could be determined, and all clues led to *G. rhyolitica*. This does make sense as Marj has a few of these in her garden. The plant does however offer some different clues to parentage, with the foliage more akin to the mountain forms of *G. victoriae*, so her determination as to the likely parents is pretty close to the mark.

Hakea bucculenta, *H. francisiana*, and *H. coriacea* which is now included as a variant of *H. francisiana*. Each of these spectacular specimens are from Phil's grafted collection, as he proudly displays.

Isopogon cuneatus, *I. dawsonii*

Micromyrtus ciliata, both an upright and an arching form



Scaevola porocarya,

Tetratheca thymifolia, *Thomasia petalocalyx*, *T. purpurea*, the value of this as a garden plant for dry shade is reinforced by John, T, *pygmaea*,

Zieria prostrata 'Carpet Star'

