



Australian Plants Society

South East NSW Group

Newsletter 159

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Corymbia maculata Spotted Gum and
Macrozamia communis Burrawang

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Soapbox

The pandemic which has caused so much concern and disruption to our daily activities has meant that most people are spending time “they never have” at home. This has meant gardening activity has gained an increasing importance, keeping us sane and at the same time fitter.

At this time many smaller businesses are required to temporarily close down, and this will obviously affect the long term viability of many nurseries.

Historically during times of recession, businesses which support the DIY trade expect to increase turnover as people stay home and stop spending on non-essential ‘big items’. I well remember the recession we had to have in the early 1990’s, when the only businesses which seemed to prosper were nurseries and similar small businesses supporting projects which made people feel happier.

In this more modern world, the businesses benefitting from this lockdown are more likely to be the big green shed style of enterprise, as economics have seen the closure of smaller nurseries. We all know the result this has had on the variety of plants available.

Whilst not a fan of on-line shopping, it seems many smaller businesses are taking up the challenge to survive. By developing an on-line presence as the lockdown continues they seek opportunities to stay afloat until being able to reopen their physical stores.

Now might be time to explore ways to assist smaller nurseries by checking out some of the offerings available on-line. From what I have found, the range of plants available is certainly more extensive than available at the hardware giants.

I have included in this newsletter a selection of sites which might be worth exploring. (see page 12)

Whilst receiving plants through the post might seem a bit alien, I can say that plants travel pretty well, and the handlers generally do not purposely tip the boxes upside down just for fun.

As we are currently not meeting physically, I am very happy that members have provided a great selection of articles for this newsletter. With all the spare time we now have, and are likely to have for the foreseeable future, maybe you too would like to contribute an article, no matter how small, or detailed, about your garden, or a special plant, or any other topic which would be of interest to members. Don’t feel that you lack the knowledge or experience to tell your story.

All contributions will be published. To help the editor, it is best to provide your article as an email attachment in word or RTF format, and pictures as jpg.

In My Garden

Bushfire in my garden

Verna Aslin, Cobargo

On returning after the fire, the initial view of my half acre block, which was 80% burnt, was very discouraging. Several hundred native plants were established and had been in the ground from 1 to 4 years. Subsequent weeks have brought some disappointments, and some pleasant surprises. So far I have not removed many burnt plants completely, tending to leave the base of each plant to avoid dispatching anything prematurely.

Basal resprouting has been the commonest type of recovery, however in a few cases new shoots have come from some quite scorched looking branches. Some plants which appeared little damaged, gradually withered and died in the month after the bushfire. This was disappointing, although in a couple of cases I was alert enough to get some cuttings.

Of the affected areas, this is the roundup to date:

Low shrubs and groundcovers (**Correas, grevilleas, thryptomenes, eremophilas** etc.) – all killed, no recovery **Eucalypts and Angophoras** – two small eucalypts dead, all others had partially unburnt crowns and/or have resprouted

Acacias – mostly dead, except a tall *Acacia cognata* which had a couple of upright branches survive, and an *Acacia prominens* which was only half burnt. Two others have resprouted, one (lost identity) from burnt branches, one (*A. melanoxylon*) from a root sucker.

Grevilleas – very disappointing, all have died except one **G. “Coconut Ice”** and one **G. “White Wings”**, which are resprouting from the main stem. Some grevilleas that I thought from a first look, would survive, gradually died over a couple of weeks after the fire, possibly from damage to the base of the plant or scorching trauma.

Phebaliums and Asterolasias – all dead

Leptospermums, Baeckeas, Sannanthas – half are gone, others are resprouting or had an upright central branch survive.

Callistemons – The broadleaved ones apparently burnt very readily, but more than half are resprouting from the base. A C. “Baroondah Station”, a Queensland cultivar of unknown parentage, had some upright central branches unburnt, and has recovered quite vigorously. Oddly, the smaller more recently planted callistemons have been more prompt to resprout than the older ones.

Pittosporums (native to my block) – all dead. They had suffered a heavy leaf drop during the drought and the area apparently burnt very fiercely (melting part of an aluminium ladder, so 660 deg C)

Calothamnus – one dead, one had a few sprouts from one branch but has since given up the ghost.

Banksias – all dead except one *B. spinulosa* which had an upright branch survive, and is now also sprouting from the base. What a champion!

Hakeas – all dead, no sign of resprouting so far although several had well-developed lignotubers. I did get around to harvest some seed pods

Casuarinas – tall *C. cunninghamiana*'s had some scorching of lower foliage only, one *C. glauca* is dead.

One very small *Allocasuarina monilifera* has resprouted from the main stem. Another champion!



Acacia melanoxylon



Westringias – mostly dead except for one very large rounded shrub of *W.glabra* where a couple of central upright branches are alive.

Melaleucas – nearly all appeared thoroughly burnt, except for the middle of a very dense *M.gibbosa* bush, and the crown of some tall specimens. Quite a few of the taller, older ones are resprouting from the base, some very vigorously. They have enjoyed the rain that has fallen since!

A couple of special mentions:

Lophostemon confertus (brush box) – I wouldn't have thought of this as a fire-resistant species, but it is resprouting vigorously

Callitris rhomboidea (Port Jackson pine) – suffered a little scorching only. As a neighbour's conifers with similar leaves which were also just scorched, I am interested in the possible fire resistance of this group. Will plant some more.

Special nark – plastic and paper plant labels are not fire resistant at all! I will have to cudgel my brains as to the identity of some survivors.

Tentative generalizations:

There are fires and fires, probably, which may affect the validity of my generalizations. The Cobargo fire advanced over very short, very dry grass paddocks, and was intense at ground level. It did not appear to be a crown jumper.

- Taller stuff tended to survive.
- Shrubs dense to the ground sometimes had a central part survive.
- Where there was a fine mulch, this fueled plants to burn completely. Heavy, chunky bark mulch mostly just scorched
- Plants with upright branches did better than spreading, weeping plants
- Scorching has been enough to kill some plants, although their foliage did not ignite

Things I am considering:

How to protect the base of plant stems? This may aid survival and recovery.

What should composition of shelter belts be? – should oil-rich broad-leaved plants (such as many callistemons) not be grouped? I had a neighbour say to me that another neighbour's house burnt down because the fire got into the shelter belt I planted on my southern boundary. Not a pleasant reflection.

Are there some plants less prone to burn, which could be used as barrier plantings? I can't make much rhyme or reason out of existing lists of "resistant" plants, but am tempted to go with some rows of *Callitris*¹.

Does pruning help? I am inclined to keep things denser, more upright and more compact.

What would be the best mulch? I know people use gravel but this does not go well with mowing and whippersnipping. Maybe some rocks or pavers?

Permapine logs while forming an easy and cost-effective garden bed edging, are prone to burn. Again, more rocks?

While it has been depressing to see years of effort in planting and plant-tending wiped out, I have embarked on sowing seed and preparing cuttings to ensure that lost plants will be more than replaced. Meanwhile, every little green shoot that appears that the base of a blackened stem is heartening – and they are still appearing, nearly three months after the fire. I'm hoping also to see some volunteer seedlings pop up in the burnt areas.

Verna Aslin,

¹ NB I can't find anyone that agrees with me



A resprouting Melaleuca

Our April 2019 meeting looked at how **architect Geoff Lovie and Lesley Vincent** combined the house and garden design to enhance their block on the Ridge Road and to live in balance with the environment. Unfortunately this garden has since been burnt by the New Year's Eve fire and Lesley and Geoff are in the process of rethinking and rebuilding the garden.

In My Garden

Lesley Vincent and Geoff Lovie

It is now just over 3 months since the fire tore through our neighbourhood on 31 December, 2019. We are some of the fortunate ones. Despite the adjacent forest being burnt and much of our garden, our home was virtually untouched.



Our property is adjacent to the Mogo State Forest on The Ridge Road in Surf Beach. Several RFS vehicles arrived just before 6am on New Year's Eve and urged us to leave immediately.

I was ready to go as per our plan and Geoff was going to stay and defend. However, having never experienced a bushfire before, and on the urgent advice of the RFS, he decided to evacuate as well.

We had prepared the property as best we could and our house was built according to the current bushfire construction code (with some additional features for fire resistance), but having never experienced anything like this, we did not know what to expect.



After the fire front had passed, Geoff managed to get back to our property on his motorcycle and found the house still standing.

The forest and our rainforest gully were devastated and most of the garden burnt. He spent the next few hours hosing down trees and putting out spot fires and mulch fires.



***Macrozamia communis*, Burrawang, new growth just weeks after the fire**

The next day I came home although it would be a week before we could get our cars up the road and 6 weeks before we would have power back on.





Rolling green hills, Feb 18th 2020. Note the bird bath, shown on the previous page, now in use.

In our garden I was amazed at the speed with which the *Chrysocephalum*'s and *Indigofera* started to regrow and a *Hardenbergia violacea* cultivar that not only started to regrow from the stump, but also sprouted a multitude of seedlings from previously fallen seeds.

The majority of our *Grevillea* species are gone, however, a few cultivars have survived including a *G.* 'Coconut Ice' that has sprouted from the root stump and is flourishing.



Grevillea 'Coconut Ice' regrowing strongly after a severe pruning

I was advised to 'wait and see' what comes back after the bushfire and this was sage advice as I am seeing new growth emerging from the roots of some trees that I thought were lost including the *Hymenosporum flavum*, *Tristaniopsis collina*, an *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* and an *Acacia cognata*.

Other plants showing signs of recovery are a *Hakea macraeana*, *Anigozanthos* spp, *Callistemon* spp, *Scaevola aemula*, *Ammobium elatum* (new seedlings) and one *Westringia* 'Jervis Gem' which I discovered reshooting from the base just as I was about to dig it out.

Great bushfire survivors are also the *Xanthorrhoea*, *Lomandra* spp, *Myoporum parvifolium* and *Carpobrotus glaucescens*.

Some of the natives that have not recovered to date include several *Banksias*, *Grevilleas* and *Acacias*, *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*, *Philotheca*, *Correas*, *Rulingia*, *Eremophila*, *Leptospermum* and many *Westringia*.

Also I have seen no sign of recovery on the stands of *Polyscias murrayi* in our gully but I am hoping that some of the seeds may sprout new growth in the future.



Hard at work, re-establishing the eastern gardens

Lesley Vincent and Geoff Lovie

Whilst it is early days, expect that *Ceratopetalum gummiferum* should spring to life, as it copes well with fire in its natural habitat. One could also expect that *Leptospermums* should also respond, particularly as the fire was hot, but passed through the area quickly. *Philotheca* spp, might also generally recover if the plants were well established, so we will have to wait and see what the future brings.

Our Currowan garden recovers from drought and fire.

The northern side of our garden caught fire when the fire of 4th January burned through our Currowan property. Almost everything in the forested surrounds that hadn't burned in the 5th December fire burned in this, the second fire. Having experienced the earlier fire, and now slightly better prepared with equipment, we saved the house and sheds, and most of the garden, in a five-hour battle.

This note covers a few things happening in our garden's recovery.

The *Glochidion ferdinandii* (Cheesetree) lost its lower branches to the fire, but is recovering.

Elaeocarpus reticulatus (Blueberry Ash) had a log burning underneath it for an hour, and its lower branches were burned, but the tree is recovering.

Grevillea "Winpara Gem #1" was badly burnt, but is recovering well.

Grevillea "Canterbury Gold" was scorched on one side, but remained undamaged on the other side, and is reshooting.

A *Callistemon salignus* that was totally burned is reshooting from the base of its trunk.

Acacia cognata, *Grevillea* "Winpara Gem #2", *Isopogon cuneatus*, *Isopogon anethifolius*, *Prostanthera* "Poorinda Ballerina", *Hibbertia cuneiformis*, *Callistemon* spp. and several *Correa* spp. were totally burned and have not recovered.

Solanum aviculare was totally burned but seedlings are appearing below the dead tree.

Grevillea "Ocean Reef" (a W.A. P1 species) was badly singed, but has bounced back with new growth. No flowers yet, but its value may lie in its potential as a rootstock for other WA species.

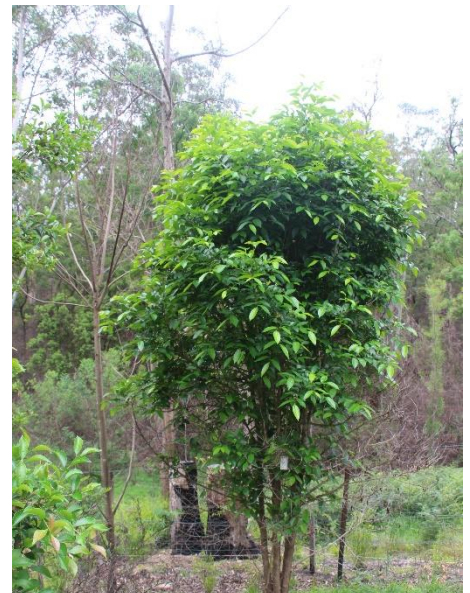
An unlabelled *Grevillea* of the Robyn Gordon type mostly refused to burn when all around it died; it has recovered.

Grevillea macleayana from the Ulladulla area and *Grevillea* "Lady O" were just beyond the fire edge and are flowering well this year.

The *Pandorea jasminoides* was not burnt; it is flowering magnificently, as are various *Callistemon*, *Grevillea* and *Kangaroo Paws* in the unburned part of the garden.



Hibbertia racemosa, in its wallaby proof enclosure, requires a very well drained soil and plenty of sun to perform its best.



Glochidion ferdinandii is rarely grown, but is a lovely small tree ideally suited to most gardens. Your editor has some healthy seedlings ready to plant out when we next meet. Orders taken.



Callistemon salignus regrowth suckering from the base

Hibbertia racemosa is coming into flower and will carry on through the winter. This may be a short-lived shrub as the W.A. parent plant died after three years of rapid growth, but it is easily struck from cuttings, so a new generation is well underway.

Pandorea "Lady Di", a beautiful white-flowered form given as cuttings on our APS visit to Horse Island, is finally flowering after struggling during drought.

Callistemon citrinus is just coming into flower, reflecting the season displaced by drought, and floods in February.

Joy returns to the garden

During the tough summer conditions earlier this year I began to curse that I had a relatively large garden by suburban standards. The prolonged dry exacerbated by extreme heat, severe water restrictions and ever present threat of fire meant most plants in the garden were left to fend as best they could. But since the welcome rain and cooler weather I have found a renewed enthusiasm for gardening. The veggie beds are once again full and productive and many birds are back singing and rejoicing in the return of flowers to much of the garden.



My long-awaited insect house has been completed and there is evidence of the first residents with some holes in the clay now coated in resin. I suspect it is the work of blue-banded bees, one of which is seen attending *Leptospermum petersonii*

Yes there have been several losses but gaps create opportunity for new plantings. Now with enforced isolation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic there is time to plan and contemplate then browse books or on line as to what new delights may be introduced into those empty spaces.



There is also plenty to be done towards the rejuvenation of many areas around the garden. I'm removing those plants that are no longer thriving and getting ahead on other maintenance jobs like pruning, weeding and mulching. I've also been transplanting a few seedlings that have popped up since the rain. Autumn is also a good time to take cuttings.



Pelargonium rodneyanum* is a reliable low growing and long flowering herbaceous plant which thrives in full sun. Plants may die down during the long dry spell recently experienced, but recover after rain. In the background is a form of *Anigozanthos flavidus



***Banksia blechnifolia* from W.A. has proved a reliable addition to a number of gardens locally, and can be expected to flower late spring through summer. Its prostrate branches present flowers at their extremities, presenting birds an opportunity to feed, and we gardeners to enjoy.**

So once more I count myself as very fortunate I can enjoy the wonderful and productive benefits that a garden brings.



With the cooler weather of autumn, *Lechenaultia biloba* has started to bloom, and will flower right through to late spring. This is one of the hardier plants in this genus, and is readily propagated by cuttings at this time of the year

Goodeniaceae

This time last year our SE APS members met at the ERBG to learn about the family Goodeniaceae. John Knight had been to the Goodeniaceae conference and provided the knowledge and know how of all things Goodeniaceae. We delighted in the images of these lovely plants in beautiful gardens depicted in a PowerPoint presentation by John.

Many plants and flowers were shown by other members in our very popular show and tell session.

We also had the opportunity to learn how to propagate from both stem and leaf cuttings. Most of us either propagated on the site or gathered some cutting material to take home and put our new knowledge to good use.

I definitely had a go at both stem and leaf cuttings and did not waste a piece of plant. Consequently, I had about 20ish little pots of new plants. Being mindful of the need to keep them moist and in a cloche I rigged up a very rough covering. This was not terribly successful so placed them in the greenhouse and very lightly watered them.

I was not very successful with the leaf cuttings; I think the overhead watering made them rot in the pots. But by September I had really lovely plants from most of the stem cuttings.

Most were left in the pots but thinking I could keep up with watering during the drought I decided to plant eight of them. About half survived in the ground, amazingly so because we evacuated our property four times during January so they were on their own. After the rains these gorgeous little plants have grown and flowered. This is what they look like now.



Lobelia sp. from Pt Anne, W.A. south coast



Scaevola striata Royal Robe from W.A.



Scaevola nitida



We saw so much devastation during our travels; entire swathes of forests and open ground burned.

We also learned that fire travels through wood mulch; never thought of it before I saw Bob and Ruth's garden at Sunshine Bay.

But cleverly, Bob had put in some paths to separate spaces in one garden and it made such a difference.

Determined to minimise (as best we can) such damage to our house and gardens, we



removed all wood mulch nearest the house and put rock mulch on the ground. It was prettied up by strategically placing terracotta pots with the lovely Goodeniaceae plants we made this time last year.

They are so lovely growing and flowering with the weekly water. I have potted up two or three or five plants into a black plastic pot. I have filled the terracotta pots with scoria and inserted the plant pots inside the scoria. Scoria is a bit painful on the hands but the plants love the warmth and the root development is amazingly good.

There is definite value in naming plants as they are being processed. Please note they are not named and defer to a higher authority to tell me what they are or key them out in good time.

Some plants in the ground have had babies but I am so enamoured of these Goodeniaceae plants that I will annually prepare my cuttings for the following season.

Happy gardening
Carolyn

In My Garden

Norm Hulands

A *Grevillea* 'Bush Lemon' which has been in the ground for a couple of years has now committed inflorescence, but the branches wanted to grow horizontal, rather than upright. This made mowing and weeding around the plant a bit difficult. So that the garden maintainer didn't damage the flowers when undertaking her very important duties I have decided to train it more upright in the hope of it staying more erect, as I had anticipated it would develop.



This photo shows *Grevillea* 'Bush Lemon' recovering after the fires went through Lesley Vincent's garden. To allay Norm's fears, we can see that it does in fact have a naturally erect habit.

No doubt Phil Trickett would be impressed with the at least 6 sturdy timber stakes offering direction to the plant to encourage it to behave.



What a terrible start to the year! Terrifying bushfires with all their physical and mental damage along with shutdowns of power, infrastructure and business, followed by drenching rains that flooded some areas and then to cap it off, an epidemic of a disease no-one knows what to do about except to cancel all 'normal' activity and lock us all away – the same technique used in the Middle Ages to combat the plague.

So, what do you do in these circumstances when all normal social discourse is ended? Of course! You attack something that can't fight back – the garden, especially the areas damaged in the bushfires.

We had a couple of areas that particularly needed attention on the north side of house. Each area was about 40 square metres and lightly planted because they both had enormous trees in them.

One area had been covered with *Pittosporum undulatum* when we arrived but over the past four years we have removed all but one of them, exposing a large area. We had already planted part of it out with kangaroo paws that love the spot and send up flower spikes to about two metres tall. Each plant covers an area of up to a metre. So why change to something that may not be as successful?

We have added another 5 kangaroo paws, 6 lomandras, 3 other things and a heap of cuttings of pigface type plants. Before we could do that though, all the weeds that had colonised the area had to be removed. Annie undertook that task over a number of days and cleared all the dichondra which was threatening to choke everything.

The new and existing plants are in amongst some enormous granite boulders that had been dumped in the area without any thought to their placement. Too hard to move them now so the planting has been used to 'tie' the area together and some smaller granite pieces added to keep the theme going. A bit of mulch and the job was complete. Just have to wait for it to mature.

The other area was more public being visible from the road. First task was to remove plants that had been damaged (but not killed) in the fires. We could have waited for them to come back but didn't want them anyway.

Along a north facing wall we have planted *Grevillea* 'peaches and cream' – probably too many but time will tell. A huge granite boulder was moved a foot or so and stood on a different face to show off more of its character. It has made a marked difference. Some smaller granite pieces have been added to further enhance the area.

Other plantings done so far are 3 *Grevillea pinaster* and 6 *Lomandra* 'tanika'. Also in this area are a mixed bag of trees and shrubs. Two viburnum and a sweet pittosporum form a hedged backdrop. That hedge needs a small extension. There are also an *Agonis juniperina* (somewhere between 10 and 15 years old so quite big), two ornamental pears, a liquidamber, a *Callistemon citrinus* 'Endeavour' (which was damaged and cut right back rather than taken out), 3 leptospermum, several correas and a couple of mysteries, and a bit of *Scaevola albida* ground cover. We have also made some lawn repairs where the grass has refused to grow. Again, a bit of mulch and the job is done.

At the moment it all looks great which makes the effort worthwhile and we have high hopes that it will all mature well.



Following January's fire, many plants were scorched, and needed removal



The same area, with damaged plants gone, and new plantings in place. Annie and Geoff worked so hard, even the wheelbarrow needed a lie down

Show and tell A native *Senna* on the far south coast

Jackie Miles

Most South Coast gardeners, if they recognise the name *Senna* at all, would immediately think of the three common garden escapee weeds *Senna septemtrionalis* (formerly known as *S. x floribunda*), *S. pendula* and *S. multiglandulosa*. This genus was previously called *Cassia* and some people might still recognise them under that name. **Few would be aware that there are two local native *Senna* species, *Senna aciphylla* and *Senna odorata*.** The genus, part of the **Caesalpinioideae** subfamily of the peas, has 25 representatives in NSW, of which only 5 are introduced. Most of the rest reside in inland Australia, but a few are coastal, mostly found in wetter forest types on the central and north coast.

The most obvious feature distinguishing the local natives from the three weedy species found here is that the seed pods of the natives are flattened, while those of the weeds are plump and cylindrical in shape. The flowers of the weedy three have only 6 or 7 fertile anthers, the other three or four being reduced or absent, while the natives have all ten anthers fertile.

Senna odorata prefers a wetter type of forest habitat (“sclerophyll communities and on margins of rainforest, north from Bega district” according to the Flora of NSW). I have only seen this species in two locations within Eurobodalla Shire and none in Bega Valley, on the Tuross River banks and at Trunketabella. It is a straggly shrub to about 2.5 metres high.

Senna aciphylla is an exception to this habitat preference as it appears to favour rock outcrops. It is never common, but I have recorded one to a few plants from varied locations on the far south coast, from Brogo, Burrigate and on Goalen Head south of Bermagui.

I have also seen it growing at Bungonia on limestone outcrops, as the photo to the right shows.

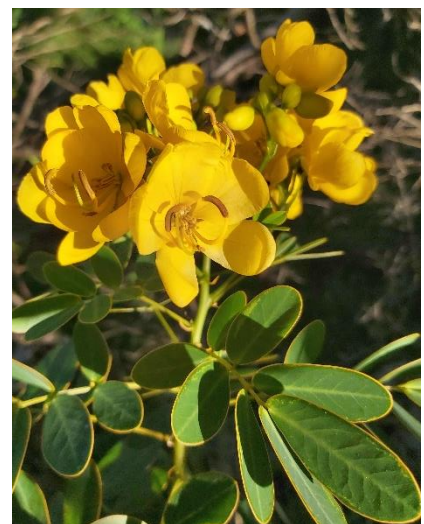
It is a more compact plant from what I have seen, growing as it does in full sun. I have it in my garden where it has persisted for many years (I forget the original seed source now, but most likely one of the three south coast locations mentioned). Although the Flora of NSW says it can get to 2 metres, mine have never made it over a metre, with a spread of about 1.5 metres. The pinnate foliage is an attractive bright green and the yellow flowers are very similar to those of the exotic species.

In over a decade of residence it has never shown the slightest inclination to reproduce, although it produces copious seed every year. That is until the “breaking” of the drought in February this year, when suddenly at least 50 seedlings appeared under and around the parent plants. I assume the extreme dryness and heat of the summer had finally allowed the seed coat to be scarified enough to permit germination. Weeks on end of exposure to smoke may have also played a part. I have transplanted a few of these and they are growing painfully slowly, suggesting that perhaps they have need of some soil organism that is lacking in the area they were moved to. Or it may just be that I am not keeping the water up to them as conscientiously as I should.

I may be able to supply a small amount of seed eventually as the mature plant has some green pods on it.

Jackie Miles, Brogo milesjackie311@gmail.com

Introduced weedy *Senna*, such as *S. septemtrionalis*, and *S. pendula* var. *glabrata* (pictured) which is currently flowering prolifically in areas around Batemans Bay that were not burned in the recent fires. It produces copious seed which germinates readily. It is possibly spread by birds deep into surrounding bush areas. If you come across this plant, you should endeavour to have it removed. Like other environmental weeds it quickly displaces native flora.



In My Garden With the current virus lockdown, just going to a nursery to browse is not an activity which is available to us. Although I note that the big green shed is still operating openly. Since we have some time to spare staying home, having a look online at some of the Australian plants available to be delivered to your home address might just stimulate some activity.

Australian plants nurseries selling online

The following list contains **some nurseries** which supply Australian plants as tubestock. It is not meant as a complete list, and definitely not definitive.

Plants are generally well established and ready for planting now. Note that the nurseries listed are not my recommendations, as I have not used any of the services.

Wildtechnursery.com.au in East Gippsland has probably the most comprehensive range of Australian plants, including many which are rarely available. Has been established since the 1980's, and provides reliable service. Note that the nursery does sell in trade wholesale numbers, minimum of 14 per species, and it might be practical to get an order for bulk supplies if members were interested. Otherwise when visiting the site, choose **Collector** to see which species are available to purchase as single items.

Australianplantsonline.com.au supply tubestock with up to 800 species available at various times

Allnatives.com.au has a large range of tubestock and arranges weekly deliveries throughout Australia

Brenlissaonlinenursery.com.au operates from Mt. Rowan in country Victoria with a 17 year history of supplying online plants. A fair range of Australian plants is available in 50mm tubes

Coolnativesnursery.com operates at Armidale NSW and specialises in tubestock, supplying a good range of Australian plants

Eranurseries.com.au is based in Hamilton in Victoria and supplies a comprehensive range of seedlings in trays suitable for potting on.

Nativeplantproject.com.au on Victoria's Mornington Peninsular has a good range of tubestock

The Native Shop, at Wimmera Native Nursery, Dimboola sells a range of plants in 50mm tubes. Contact via email, wnn@bigpond.net.au

Gardenexpress.com.au sells anything and everything, but does have a range of Australian plants in 50mm tubes.

Onlineplants.com.au sells out of Melbourne area, supplying plants from a range of growers, mostly in larger containers, around 140mm size and therefore more expensive to transport.

Plantsinabox.com.au also supply a smaller range of Australian plants



Finally arrived. Norm and Lesley Hulands took a gamble, and purchased a box of plants from Allnatives.com.au. Due to delays in delivery by Australia post, which is busier than ever during the virus lockdown, they were worried how the plants might survive, having been boxed up for more than a week.

As the photo shows, the plants travelled well, and sprung back to life once released from their box.



Committee News

Prior to our April meeting being cancelled, **Lyndal Thorburn** had agreed to attend our meeting to talk about Western Australian plants. **Lyndal is the leader of the Eremophila Study Group**, and is spending some of her down time compiling a list of all Eremophila species being grown throughout Australia.

Said Lyndal, “For some time, a survey of who is growing what has been on my mental "to do" list. Our previous leader, Colin Jennings, used to run these occasionally, but I don't believe results were ever published. Indeed, I have a pile of answers to his surveys in my Study Group archive, but I don't have the original "key" that is needed to de-code the answer sheets (if anyone has one of these in their stash, please email it to me!!)

The purpose of the survey is to see who is growing what so we get a better idea of what is in cultivation and how widely available is each species to home gardeners (or public gardens for that matter). Given most of us are stuck at home, it gives us an excuse to get out in the garden as well.”

As always, the survey is available through Survey Monkey, at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WhatAreYouGrowing>

However, I suggest you print it out (**attached to this email is the PDF version file**) and, after reading the instructions, wander round the garden to mark up by hand, and then log in to complete it online - it will be quicker. Note the exclusion of hybrids, at this stage.

Looking forward to your responses!

Group activities during the time of lockdown

The committee has been considering how the group can keep active, and in contact whilst the current bans on group gatherings remains.

President Di suggests it is time for us to be a bit more proactive, so is asking if anyone has any ideas or great ways to involve our members.

Some ideas currently being canvassed include:

- Better use of our website southeast.austplants.com.au This would of course require members to supply information and accompanying photographs. The information could be in the form as shown in this newsletter, with current work members are doing in their gardens, pictures of interesting plants and associated nature, in fact any information which would be suitable as a resource for other members. Of course this information would be sent to our webmaster, Mark Noake, and he would then upload appropriate content to our website.
- Members have much knowledge about plants, and this might be an opportunity to place that knowledge in a broader forum. For instance, tips on how to grow a certain plant that others have had difficulty with. Tips on how to propagate difficult species, or even not difficult ones. We all have experience in varying ways, and your secret might just be what another member is seeking, but never knew where to ask.
- Seek once more to develop a Facebook presence where up to date snippets could be placed. This of course requires a member who has experience in using Facebook, and also has the time/inclination to take on the task of regularly updating our site.
- Using an online video meeting portal such as ZOOM to host meetings of members. For those unfamiliar with the ever increasing use of this program, groups are offered access for up to 100 members to meet via video link, and use of the site is free for groups such as ours for 40 minutes per session. Due to perceived or genuine concern over privacy and security, some members have stated that they would not consider such a proposal, but there is more discussion on this before decisions should be finalised. Any member with experience of using this site should offer comment to the committee to help the best decision to be reached.

Now would be a good idea for everyone to put on the thinking cap, and seeing what ideas can be floated. There can be no excuse for suggesting not having time, as you are now all confined to home until Scott says otherwise.

From **Carolyn Noake**, who has been spending at least some of her time mulling over ideas for the group, comes the following thoughts.

Hi Di,
I have a proposal for your consideration.

I am currently photographing grevilleas that are in flower at our place, and writing an article for possible use. It could be posted to our website with minor modifications from Mark, or indeed used in part in our newsletter.

The idea is to keep members of South East APS (and others) involved in the group and interested in our love for native plants:

- to help them get through these trying times
- to keep communication channels open
- to get them to focus on achievable goals like propagating and growing for themselves and each other and the environment
- to get them out into the garden for health and welfare reasons and to see the beauty they have created and
- to get members interested in sharing their information.

Firstly, an email is sent to all members asking them to checkout the website for virtual meetings and asking them to participate in this fashion whilst we are not actually meeting in person. We could also ask them for any ideas and also to participate in this initiative. Address must given to all.

Secondly, I write the article or a series of articles with lots of photographs. A mistake would be made or a question would be asked so members can try to find/answer it. This allows them to research and/or virtually interact with each other to correct the mistake. They would be encouraged to write to me with the correction. (I am going to seriously regret this bit but I could collate the replies and when we first actually meet, prizes of plants could be given. Donations of propagated plants welcome from all members. Make it a learning opportunity all members can enjoy).

Thirdly, hopefully members would be interested in sending me an article or photos and we treat it as above. Of course I would need to know what the mistake is so I can collate possible prize thing. Naturally I would win the prize because I would have all the information. Just kidding, I would be exempt 😊

This is just roughish thinking for yourselves and members to consider, and also open to suggestions/comments. The Beagle and the local online newspaper might take articles of a different nature. Also thinking about the ramifications of videoing a garden tour and uploading to website. Maybe professional articles written by you and/or John or other professional horticulturists could be available. We still desperately need the newsletter because of its professional depiction and its knowledgeable content. It really is a sanity saver when it comes through. Maybe we could give the mistakes answers so members can enhance their learning experience.

As I said just thinking.....

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