



**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (Formerly SGAP)
Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter
March 2016 No 413**

Correa reflexa 'Grannys Grave'

www.facebook.com/warrnamboolsgap



Incorporation No: AOO13120X

ABN: 51672752196

Web: apswarrnambool.org.au

Hi members,

EDITORIAL

The recent soaking rains have been very welcome to the south west, hopefully there will be much more to come. On page 7 in maps supplied by the Bureau Of Meteorology, you can see that the past four summers have been extremely dry in SW Victoria and SE SA. Thank you to Jarred Obst from GHCA for sending this through.

Every once in a while, Good Friday falls on our meeting night on the fourth Friday of the month. This hasn't happened for many years but it has occurred this year. Despite our attempts to shift our night to another Friday night, we have been unsuccessful in finding a suitable night that is available at the Mozart Hall. Therefore, there will not be a members night this month. **The meeting has been cancelled. Our next members night will be our usual night on Friday 22nd April.**

A check of our history book published in 1997 following our 20th Anniversary shows that our group began with a feeler meeting in February 1976 following an advertisement in the Warrnambool Standard by the late Bill Alford, a subsequent Life Member of our group. A meeting to form a group was held the following month. This means that our group is now 40 years old! What do you think we should do as a group to celebrate our Fortieth Anniversary? We could have a celebratory dinner with invited guests like we did for our Twentieth? We could do an update and republish our history book, like the first one written by Bruce Clark. I do have the files for this book on computer so this part would be fairly simple. Just need someone to do the research and write text for the second 20 years. Does anyone have any other ideas on what we could do as a group??

You will notice that our web site address has changed, Warrnambool City Council has decided that they will not in future be hosting the web sites of local community groups, so we have set up our web site elsewhere.

I hope every one has a very happy Easter and hope to see you all next month, Cheers, Kevin

The APS Warrnambool & District holds meetings on the 4th Friday of each month at the Mozart Hall Warrnambool at 8pm.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

25th March - Our March meeting has been cancelled due to the clash with Good Friday.

29th March - Committee Meeting at Laura and Gavin Prentice's home at 80 Aitkins Road, Warrnambool. 8.00pm.

22nd April - Members Night - Jodie Honan speaking on the Port Fairy Powling Street Wetlands.

26th April - Committee meeting at Sparrows, 35 Swan St Warrnambool.

'Plants of the Great South West', book on plants of South West Victoria



**\$20, available from
Kevin Sparrow at
ksparrow93@gmail.com
Ph: 55626217**

**Like us on
Facebook**



Members Night: Friday 25th March (Good Friday) has been Cancelled

February Display Table by Kerry Artis

June Preece has three *Correas* in flower. One was a gift from Hamilton and is now called *Correa* 'redex'. *Correa* *baeuerlenii* Chef's Hat has a lovely green flower with perfumed leaves and *Correa* 'Marion's Marvel' is growing as a hedge out the front of Junes and has done very well. *Grevillea pectinata* is about 6' tall and has an unusual fern like leaf with clusters of deep pink flowers, *Callistemon* 'In June' starts off with pink flowers that turn cream as they age.

Marilyn Berry brought along *Callistemon* 'In June' as well, which is flowering for the first time although it is several years old. *Goodenia ovata* (below left) is a prostrate plant growing in the shade, it is never watered and has proved to be very hardy. *Correa* 'Ivory Bells' is also a hardy plant that is about 25 years old, 3m high, never watered and was bred in America.

Marj Craig showed us *Grevillea rhyolitica*, a long flowering plant through spring and summer, grows to a height of 1.5m and bears a lovely red flower.

Laura Weedon displayed some Kangaroo grass, some Wallaby grass and some lovely yellow everlastings.



Kevin Sparrows *Banksia prionotes* (upper centre) is starting to flower and looking great, *Banksia burdettii* started to flower in December and *Banksia serrata* is nearing the end of its flowering. *Hoya bella* (lower centre) is a very pretty plant that was looking quite sick, after a prune and a spray it has bounced back and is flowering nicely.

Kevin brought along four *Eremophilas* which are all doing very well, *E splendens*, *E maculata*, *E maculata* var *maculata* and *E* 'Yana Road' hybrid - *E gilesii* x *E latrobei*. (below right). *Hibbertia dentata* is a climbing twiner with dark green leaves and large, yellow flowers, *Lysiosepalum involucreatum* is a small, compact shrub that bears pinkish mauve flowers with a dark centre in spring and summer and *Billardiera ringens* is a moderately vigorous, twining climber bearing open orange flowers in tight clusters and is a hardy, showy plant.



Plant of the Month By Kevin Sparrow

Botanical Name: *Eremophila muelleriana*.

Common Name: Pound-leaved Eremophila

Named in honour famous botanist of Baron Ferdinand von Mueller.

Distribution: Western Central Western Australia.

Description: *Eremophila muelleriana* is mostly an upright shrub to 2m x 1.5m and grows best in well drained soils in a full sun location. It is frost tender, so it requires some protection, foliage is subject to damage in strong winds also.

Propagation: *E. muelleriana* can be propagated by cuttings which are often slow to strike. In Victoria, it is probably best if it is grafted onto a *Myoporum* species rootstock. Plant can go unnoticed in the garden until it flowers. It then becomes a showstopper with its deep purple to almost black flowers. Probably best if it is grown in a container in a north facing location.

Reference used: “*Australia’s Eremophilas - Changing Gardens for a Changing Climate*” by Norma Boschen, Maree Goods and Russell Waite.

Published by Bloomings Books.



Please submit your articles for the newsletter by the end of the second week of the month

President: Kevin Sparrow Phone: 55626217 **Vice President:** Bob Artis, Brown St, Allansford. Phone: 0417 321225
Secretary: John Sherwood. 26 McConnell St, Warrnambool Phone: 55628064 Email: jsher@deakin.edu.au
Treasurer: Mike Halls, 127 Rooney's Rd, Warrnambool 3280 Phone: 55626519 Email: mandehalls@bigpond.com
Newsletter Editor: Kevin Sparrow 35 Swan Street, Warrnambool. Phone: 55626217 Email: ksparrow93@gmail.com
Publicity Officer and Librarian: Vacant **Public Officer:** John Sherwood. Phone: 55628064 **APS Reps:** vacant,
History Book Coordinator: Joyce Sparrow. **Other Committee Members:** Kerry Artis, Laura Weedon, Louise Sheba

APS Warrnambool & District is a District Group of the Australian Plants Society (Vic)

All members are required to also be a member of APS Vic.

Coastal Connections by Jarred Obst.

Hello and welcome to the first 'Coastal Connections' instalment of 2016!

The New Year is now well upon us, summer has technically passed and fingers crossed a changing season is ahead...

Hopefully signs of an early and favourable autumn break arrived between February 23rd and 25th when long awaited soaking rains of 20 to 50mm fell across our coastal region. Luckily this slow moving system brought relatively calm and gentle downfalls, as opposed to the heavy and damaging rain which often occurs post drought conditions. Preceding this rain, our dominant summer winds, afternoon south-easterly's, hinted that they were beginning to break down, along with calm evenings and dewy 'autumn' mornings becoming more frequent. Best of all, the experts potentially agree with these trends, predicting a continued breakdown of El Nino and above average autumn rainfalls for our region.

Estuary Update

The long and dry summer conditions resulted in a relatively quiet period for our estuaries. This is however typical of the yearly cycle for such intermittently closed systems, as without consistent rainfall and inflows, these estuaries will naturally close due to sand deposition at the mouths from onshore winds and swell/tidal patterns. A changing season can and will affect this however, kicking the yearly cycle into gear and hopefully providing a long awaited freshwater flush to 'reset' these systems.

Recent CMA activities in and around our estuaries;

1. Sea Rocket Removal

- Frequent visitors to our coastline and estuary mouths may have noticed a recent emergence of Sea Rocket (*cahile sp*).
- This opportunistic weed has flourished during dry seasonal conditions, and while not regarded as having long-lasting impacts, can form incipient dunes which consequently impact on the natural opening potential of our estuaries.
- *As a result, the Green Army team have been working hard to remove such plants in a trial at the Hopkins River Blue hole and Merri River estuary at Stingray Bay above the Marine Sanctuary.*

2. Spiny Rush Treatment at Yambuk Lake

- Spiny Rush (*Juncus acutus*) is a highly invasive weed that has been identified as a major threat to the health and values of our estuarine wetland vegetation.
- In particular, treatment of infestations along the Yambuk Lake estuary have begun through a partnership between the CMA and local landholders.
- I also hope to target this weed through future investment programs so if you know of potential priority estuarine sites please let me know.

Spiny Rush (*Juncus acutus*) (right) is a highly invasive weed which;

- *Invades watercourses and swamps*
- *Smothers native vegetation*
- *Restricts access for recreational activities such as fishing*
- *Can cause injury to livestock, pets and humans*
- *Provides harbour for pest animals such as rabbits & foxes*

3. Fitzroy Estuary Waterway Action Plan (WAP)

• The CMA are undertaking a WAP on the Fitzroy River estuary during March and April 2016.

• This WAP aims to gain an up-to-date understanding of the system, identify local issues affecting landholders and develop on-going management actions for this fantastic estuarine system.

• If you are a landholder in this region or would like to know more about the study, please just let me know.



Upcoming opportunities

Finally, with the New Year upon us, a range funding and volunteer opportunities exist, here is a quick snapshot;

- ***Regional Riparian Landcare Grants*** are currently open through the CMA.
- ***Victorian Litter Plan*** is offering funding for innovative approaches to litter management.
- ***Nelson Estuary Clean-up Day*** is occurring through Nelson Coastcare and the CMA on Wed 6th April at Nelson > *contact me directly*
- ***Coastcare Community Grants*** are open until midnight 17th April.
- ***Conservation Volunteers Australia*** continue to offer a range of volunteering opportunities for all.

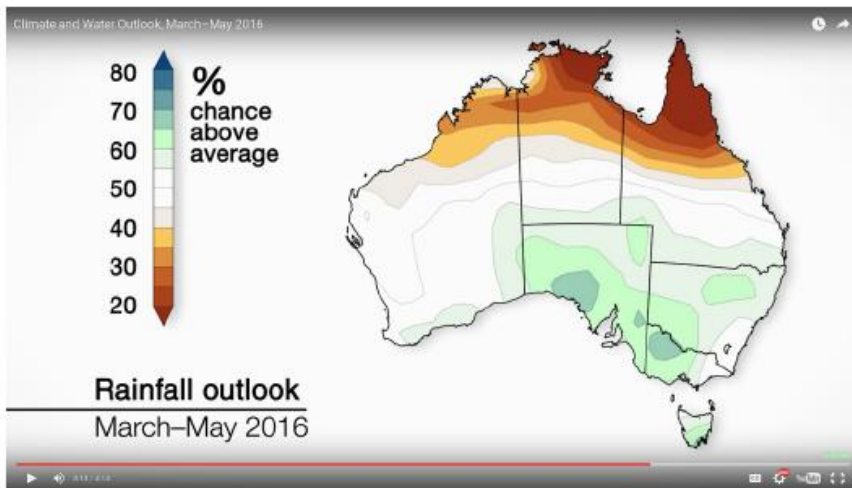
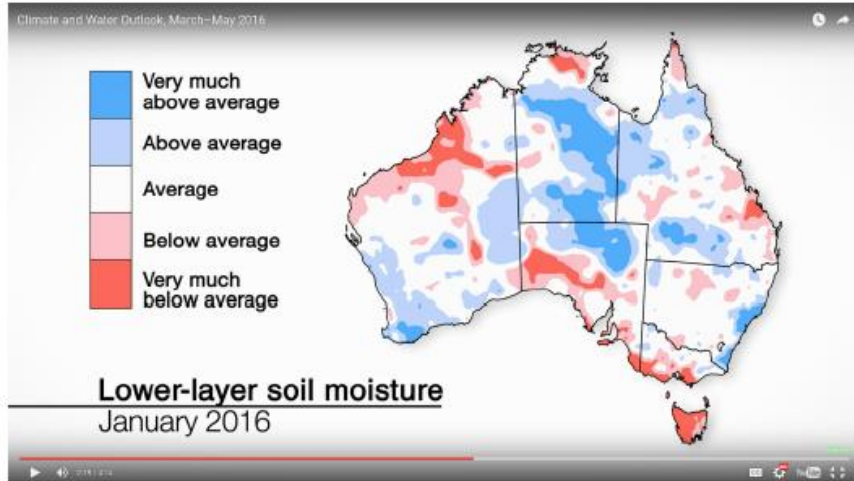
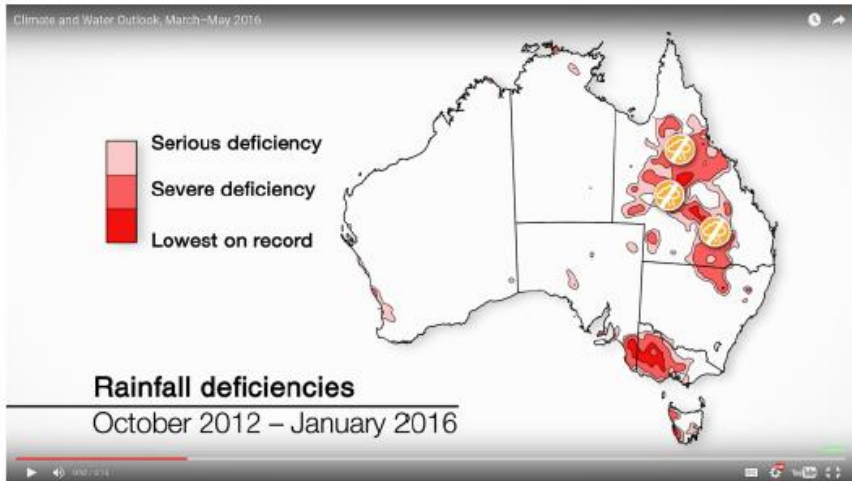
I hope you all enjoyed a safe and festive summer period & all the best for the coming autumn months, Regards
Jarred

Coastal Connections by Jarred Obst. (Continued)

Sea Rocket Trial – Hopkins River estuary @ the Blue Hole, February 2016.



Coastal Connections by Jarred Obst. (Continued)



Climate and Water Outlook, March–May 2016

| El Niño declining
| Above-average rain
in the south
| Drier and warmer
in the north
| Low streamflows likely