



Grampians Issue



December 2011
Vol 26 No 209

Australian Plants



Contents

Introduction	Neil Marriott	147
The Grampians Ranges	Neil Marriott	148
Endemic plants of the Grampians	Neil Marriott	156
Wild Nature In the Grampians	David Handscombe	160
Pomonal Indigenous Garden	Jane & Phil Williams	164
Gardening in the Grampians	Linda Handscombe	167
Gardening with Australian native plants – The added bonus of attracting our wonderful wildlife	Neil Macumber	172
'Panrock Ridge'	Neil & Wendy Marriott	178
Growing correas in the Grampians	Joan Pitaro	182
Growing Grampians <i>Thryptomene</i> commercially in the Grampians	Bruce Winfield	185
The Pomonal Native Flower Show	Linda Handscombe	188
Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) and member Society contacts, see centre pages		

Front / back cover photos: Grampians *Thryptomene*, *Thryptomene calycina* /
'Kwongan Garden' Panrock Ridge, both by Neil Marriot

Australian Plants articles

Australian Plants is published quarterly to promote knowledge of Australian plants.

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Australian Plants No. 209 Issue of Volume 26, which comprises issues 206–213.
Published quarterly and available nationally in 3000 copies by the Australian Plants
Society NSW Ltd

© Australian Plants Society NSW Ltd 2011 ACN 002680408 ISSN 0005-0008
Printed by Elect Printing, Fyshwick, ACT Print post approved PP226253/00017

Introduction

Neil R Marriott, President, Grampians Group APS

The Grampians Ranges has long been known as a floristically rich and diverse region. Way back in the 1800s Baron von Mueller, Chief Botanist of the young colony of Victoria, called the Grampians "the garden of Victoria". Today this is confirmed with the listing of over a third of all flowering plants occurring in Victoria to be found in the Grampians. This means there are over 1,000 species of native plants in the ranges, with a staggering 54 species being found nowhere else but the Grampians region, with a further 23 species having their major occurrences in the ranges and a further 392 species found in the ranges being endemic to Victoria. Many of these 'endemics' are quite spectacular such as Grampians *Bauera* *Bauera sessiliflora*, Flame Grevillea, *Grevillea dimorpha*, Grampians *Thryptomene*, *Thryptomene calycina*, Grampians Grevillea, *Grevillea confertifolia* and a number of showy pea plants such as the spectacular pink flowered Rosy Bush-pea *Pultenaea subalpina*, Ribbed Bush-pea, *Pultenaea costata* and Mt Byron Bush-pea *Pultenaea patellifolia*

The Grampians Group of the Australian Plants Society is an enthusiastic group of gardeners and lovers of the natural environment. We are privileged to live in such a wonderful part of Australia, and hope you enjoy the articles we have put together for your interest in this issue. The Grampians Ranges and their surrounds are wonderful and sandy - ideal for growing a vast range of native plants, while further afield the soils turn to heavy alluvial clays and gravelly loams that offer a challenge to our gardeners. However, with good preparation we have had great success in these soils as well. Our region boasts some of the very best Australian native gardens in the state and we encourage you to visit the Grampians, and call on us while you are here.



A distinct form of Common Everlasting
Chrysocephalum apiculatum growing on
exposed sandstone on top of Mt William
with Serra Range in background
Photo Neil Marriott



The Grampians Ranges

Neil R Marriott

The Grampians Ranges had their beginning as a large inland sea around 400 million years ago. This was then uplifted and often wildly tilted along a series of north-south fault lines to create a number of roughly parallel ranges with steep cliff faces on the east, gently sloping down to the west. This geological formation is known as a Scarp Cuesta. Originally the ranges were over a thousand metres high, but ageing, weathering and erosion have worn this once vast series of mountains down to mere skeletons of their former glory, with Mt William the highest peak now just over 1000 metres high. However, many of the subalpine and montane species have survived on the mountain tops, while the deep valleys and vast outwash sand deposits have created ideal conditions for the proliferation of our native plants and animals.

The Grampians has an extensive network of roads and tracks suitable for both conventional and 4WD vehicles, allowing visitors to access the majority of the national park. As well, there are many walking tracks and camping areas for overnight campers or extended wilderness walkers. One wonderful walk is up to Major Mitchell Plateau, a subalpine mountain covered in open heathy woodland, Snow Gums and swamps and covered in rare and localised plants. Overnight camp sites are developed and the walk takes you across the plateau and down to the other side where you can be picked up by friends to drive you back to where you left your car.

Because they extend for over 120 kms from the cool and wet basalt plains in the south to the warm Wimmera Plains in the north, and from low hills to subalpine mountains there is an extreme range in annual rainfall from over 1250 mm in the south to less than 450mm in the north. The result of this is a variety of plants ranging from swamp and stream dwellers through to species normally found only in the deserts of the north-west of the state.



Grampians Grevillea
Grevillea confertifolia
All photos by Neil Marriott

Rocky areas: There are species that only, or primarily, occur on the sandstone outcrops such as the extremely rare Grampians Pincushion Lily, *Borya mirabilis*, the ancient Skeleton Fork-fern *Psilotum nudum*, Grampians Grey-gum *Eucalyptus alaticaulis* and the rare prostrate form of Grampians Grevillea, *Grevillea confertifolia* that is confined to the top of Mt William and Major Mitchell Plateau.

Also on the higher peaks and ridges can be found the Rock Banksia, *Banksia saxicola*, that is confined to the Grampians and a small area at Sealers Cove at Wilsons Promontory.



Rock Banksia *Banksia saxicola* growing on the top of Mt William

Growing with the Rock Banksia on Mt William can be found the rare Grampians Mountain Correa, *Correa lawrenciana* var *grampiana*. Another spectacular shrub from the higher peaks is Grampians Boronia, *Boronia latipinna*, which can be readily admired along the Sundial Track.

The very popular garden screen Grampians Gum *Eucalyptus alpina* was found to be an illegitimate name, so it is now known as *Eucalyptus serraensis*. As the name implies, it is confined to the northern half of the Serra Range in the central Grampians. It is very similar and closely related to Mt Abrupt Stringybark, *Eucalyptus verrucata*, which is confined to the southern half of the Serra Range, and the Victoria Range Stringybark, *Eucalyptus victoriana*, which is confined to the Victoria Range in the western Grampians. All are confined to the higher rocky peaks of these ranges and all make wonderful dense garden screens or



Spectacular sandstone cliffs clothed with Grampians Grey-gum *Eucalyptus alaticaulis*.



Grampians Heath
Epacris impressa var
grandiflora is confined
to rocky outcrops

feature plants with very large warty flowers and fruits and thick rounded glossy leaves.

Another rare beauty largely found in mountainous rocky areas is the Grampians Rice-flower, *Pimelia pagophylla*, which is rather like a miniature Qualup Bell from the south coast of Western Australia, as it too has beautiful bracted bell flowers. On moss beds and other exposed rocky sites can be found the lovely Grampians Triggerplant *Stylidium soboliferum* with its delicate heads of pink flowers above 'hen-and-chicken' prostrate rosettes of leaves.

The Woodlands: Most of the Grampians are covered in heathy woodland. In these areas on the slopes and valleys between the ranges and under Stringybark Woodland can be found Western Everlasting, *Ixodia achillioides*, Grampians Guinea-flower *Hibbertia humifusa*, numerous heath plants including massed displays of Common Heath *Epacris impressa*, Flame-heath *Astroloma conostephioides*, Pine Heath *Astroloma pinifolia* and Golden Heath, *Styphelia adscendens*.

There are 18 species of bush-peas or pultenaeas in the Grampians and the majority of these grow in the woodlands, including eight species that occur nowhere else. The two widespread *Correas* in the Grampians, *Correa reflexa* var *angustifolia* and Hairy Correa *Correa aemula*, are primarily found in woodland, as are many of the grevilleas including *Grevillea aquifolium*, *G. dimorpha* and *G. alpina*. Probably the most famous of all Grampians woodland plants is Grampians Thryptomene, *Thryptomene calycina*, which has been extensively domesticated for the cut-flower industry as described by one of our members in this issue.



Above: Grampians Correa *Correa reflexa* var *angustifolia*

Left: The rare pink-flowered form of Golden Heath *Styphelia adscendens*





The Heathlands: On the open plains where the sandy soils are too poor or too deep for eucalypts to survive can be found some of the Grampians' most spectacular floral displays. In the deep sands Desert Banksia, *Banksia ornata*, is abundant, often with another inhabitant of the inland and outback, Spinifex Grass, *Triodia scariosa*, as a partner.



Desert Banksia
Banksia ornata

One of the most beautiful of all the heathland plants is the Blue Tinsel Lily *Calectasia intermedia* which can often be found in spectacular drifts of metallic blue.

In the winter and spring daisies such as Woolly Everlasting, *Argentopallium blandowskianum*, Blunt Everlasting, *Argentopallium obtusifolium* and White Everlasting, *Chrysocephalum baxteri*, put on a beautiful display, while the Guinea-flowers *Hibbertia fasciculata* var *prostrata*, *H. sericea* and *H. create* massed areas of bright yellow. Interestingly, there are no heathland species that are endemic to the Grampians.



Below: Blue Tinsel Lily
Calectasia intermedia

The Swamps and Creeklines:

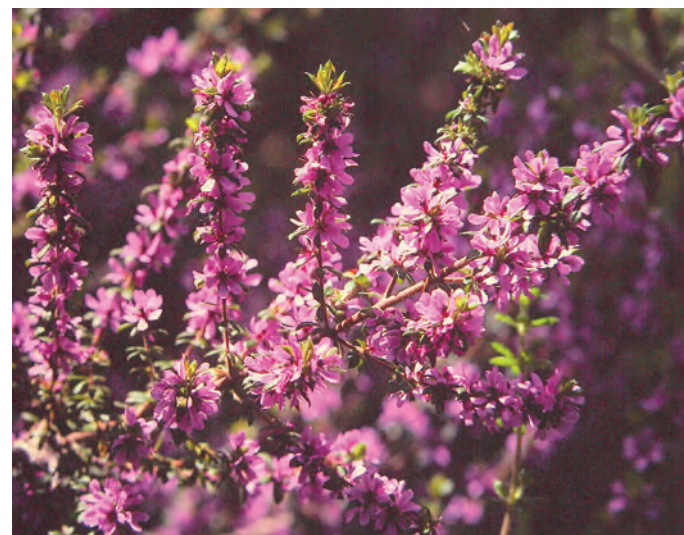
In poorly drained sandy heaths the rare and endemic Gariwerd Grevillea, *Grevillea gariwerdensis*, can be found in a number of limited areas. It has massed small white or occasionally showy pink flowers and is a hardy and reliable plant in the garden. Gariwerd is the Koori Aboriginal name for the Grampians Ranges.



Gariwerd Grevillea *Grevillea gariwerdensis*

Another lover of wet areas, this time along creeklines, is the delightful climber Orange Bell-climber, *Marianthus bignoniaceus*. Interestingly, this climber is also found in small areas of the Mt Lofty Ranges and on Kangaroo Island in South Australia. The disjunction of these populations shows that they are relicts of a formerly widespread population, now holding on in small and isolated refugia. The same disjunction occurs for Hairy Correa *Correa aemula*.

A species confined to the Grampians that only occurs in permanently wet sites along creeklines is the Grampians Bauera, *Bauera sessiliflora*, which puts on a spectacular massed display of bright magenta flowers during the winter-spring time. Sadly, the recent floods have decimated large areas of this species along many of the creeklines.



Grampians Bauera
Bauera sessiliflora



Likewise, on the major rivers flowing out of the Grampians can be found the rare Wimmera Bottlebrush, *Callistemon wimmerensis*, that was first thought to be confined to the Wimmera. Recently it has been discovered growing on the Glenelg and Wannon Rivers, with many of the plants over 10-16 metres in height, making it Victoria's tallest Bottlebrush. This species has just been listed as Endangered under the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC).

Sadly, much of the Grampians was burnt in the massive fires of 2006. However the recovery has often been spectacular, with massed displays of grasstrees, wildflowers and rare and wonderful orchids. The first spring after the fires brought orchid lovers from all over the country to observe the massed flowering of species seldom seen.



Massed Grasstrees, *Xanthorrea australis*, flowering after 2006 bushfire



Callistemon wimmerensis, Wimmera Bottlebrush,



Grampians Parrot-pea
Dillwynia oreodoxa



Showy Parrot-pea *Dillwynia hispida*



A beautiful wetland on the Glenelg River flowing out of the Grampians



Endemic plants of the Grampians

Neil R Marriott

The following lists, compiled with assistance from Neville Walsh, Senior Conservation Botanist, Melbourne Herbarium, include a small number of species that are also found on the nearby Mt Langi Ghiran and Mt Cole range (*). In all there are 54 endemic taxa in the Grampians out of 394 endemics in Victoria.

Owing to their limited distribution, nearly all of these plants are listed as rare, endangered or vulnerable for Victoria. However, most are relatively common within the Grampians National Park and adjoining bushland areas and with a bit of searching in the right vegetation community, most can be found by keen observers. On the other hand, plants such as Grampians Borya, *Borya mirabilis*, and *Daviesia laevis*, Grampians Bitter-pea, are confined to one or two small clumps of plants in extremely small localised populations and will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to find.

Species in **bold type** can be found quite readily on the major tourist routes and tracks throughout the Park.

Allocasuarina grampiana

* *Astrotricha* sp. 1 ssp. 1

* *Astrotricha* sp. 1 ssp. 2

Bauera sessiliflora

* *Bertya grampiana*

Boronia latipinna

Grampians Sheoak

Grampians Star-hair

Grampians Star-hair

Grampians Bauera

Grampians Bertya

Grampians Boronia



The delightful dwarf Grampians She-oak
Allocasuarina grampiana

Borya mirabilis

Bossiaea rosmarinifolia

Caladenia grampiana

Correa lawrenceana* var. *grampiana

Correa reflexa* var. *angustifolia

Daviesia laevis

Dillwynia oreodoxa

Eucalyptus alaticaulis

Eucalyptus pauciflora* ssp. *parvifructa

Eucalyptus serraensis

Eucalyptus verrucata

Eucalyptus victoriana

Eucalyptus aff. *aromaphloia*

(Major Mitchell Plateau)

Eucalyptus* aff. *goniocalyx

***Eucalyptus* aff. *odorata* (Mt Arapiles)**

Eucalyptus* aff. *serraensis
(Mt William)

Grevillea confertifolia

Grevillea dimorpha

Grevillea gariwerdensis

Grevillea microstegia

Grevillea williamsonii

* ***Howittia* aff. *trilocularis***

Leionema bilobum* ssp. *bilobum

* *Leionema bilobum* ssp. *thackerayense*

Leptospermum turbinatum

Leucopogon neurophyllus

Leucopogon thymifolius

* ***Monotoca billawinica***

Pimelea pagophylla

* *Platylobium alternifolium*

Prostanthera lasianthos
var. *subcoriacea*

* ***Prostanthera* sp aff *spinosa***

Pultenaea costata

Pultenaea daltonii

Pultenaea leuhmannii

Grampians Borya

Grampians Bossiaea

Grampians Spider-orchid

Grampians Mountain-correa

Grampians Correa

Grampians Bitter-pea

Grampians Parrot-pea

Grampians Grey-gum

Grampians Snow-gum

Grampians Stringybark

Mt Abrupt Stringybark

Victoria Range Stringybark

Mountain Scentbark

Rock Bundy

Arapiles Peppermint-box

Mt William Stringybark

Grampians Grevillea

Flame Grevillea

Gariwerd Grevillea

Mt Cassell Grevillea

Serra Grevillea

Grampians Howittia

Truncate Leionema

Notched Leionema

Shiny Tea-tree

Veined Beard-heath

Thyme Beard-heath

Grampians Broom-heath

Grampians Rice-flower

Victorian Flat-pea

Grampians Christmas-bush

Mt Arapiles Spiny Mintbush

Ribbed Bush-pea

Hoary Bush-pea

Thready Bush-pea



The beautiful Rosy Bush-pea
Pultenaea subalpina

* *Pultenaea maidenii*
Pultenaea patellifolia
Pultenaea subalpina
* *Pultenaea victoriensis*
Pultenaea williamsoniana
Senecio linearifolius var. *gariwerdensis*

* *Sphaerolobium acanthos*
Spyridium daltonii
Spyridium x ramosissimum
Stylidium soboliferum
Thryptomene calycina
Zieria oreocena

Maiden's Bush-pea
Mt Byron Bush-pea
Rosy Bush-pea
Victoria Range Bush-pea
Williamson's Bush-pea
Grampians Fireweed
Groundsel

Grampians Globe-pea
Narrow-leaf Spyridium
Hybrid Branched Spyridium
Grampians Triggerplant
Grampians Thryptomene
Grampians Zieria

Species with major disjunctions/concentrations in Grampians

The following species, although not confined entirely to the Grampians, are mostly found here, with usually much localised occurrences elsewhere in the state.

Banksia saxicola
Callistemon wimmerensis
Celmisia pugioniformis
Conospermum mitchellii
* *Cyphanthera anthocercidea*
* *Davallia solida* var. *pyxidata*
Eucalyptus falciformis

Rock Banksia
Wimmera Bottlebrush
Slender Snow-daisy
Victorian Smoke-bush
Large-leaf Ray-flower
Hare's-foot Fern
Grampians Peppermint

Gonocarpus mezianus
Hovea corrickiae
Lepyrodia tasmanica
Lycopodium varium
Marianthus bignoniacea
Paracaleana disjuncta
* *Philotheca difformis*
Pomaderris apetala
* *Prostanthera spinosa*
Pultenaea benthamii
Pultenaea juniperina
Ranunculus amplus
Rytidosperma dimidiatum
Schoenus carsei
Schoenus turbinatus
* *Senecio pilosicristus*
Spyridium cinereum
* *Swainsona brachycarpa*

Hairy Raspwort
Glossy Hovea
Scale Rush
Variable Clubmoss
Orange Bell-clinber
Grampians Duck-orchid
Small-leaf Wax-flower
Grampians Pomaderris
Spiny Mintbush
Bentham's Bush-pea
Pungent Bush-pea
Feather-leaf Buttercup
Tasmanian Wallaby-grass
Wiry Bog-sedge
Top Bog-sedge
Groundsell
Tiny Sypyridium
Slender Swainson-pea



Type form of Mountain Grevillea *Grevillea alpina* first described from the Grampians.



Wild Nature in the Grampians

David Handscombe

David is Vice President of the Grampians Group of the Australian Plants Society and a Senior Ranger in Grampians National Park

When we hear the Grampians mentioned we normally think of a series of rugged mountains standing out in the vast plains of the Western district. This, however, is only a portion of what the Grampians district has to offer. The Dundas Tablelands to the south west, the Victorian Volcanic Plains to the south, the Wimmera Plains to the north and the two Black Ranges (granite to the east and sandstone to the west) all have their own distinctive flora and fauna.

Within the mountains and valleys of the Grampians National Park it is possible to find species common to the fore-mentioned geographic areas. The Dundas Tablelands, Victorian Volcanic Plains and the Wimmera Plains have all been highly modified because of their suitability to agricultural practices so that the flora and fauna only remains in small remnants of the original vegetation. This is one of the reasons that areas such as the Grampians National Park, Black Range State Park and the many small reserves are so important in conserving the flora and fauna of the district.

Let us consider the Grampians National Park, as this is the area I know best. The Park contains approximately one third of the state's vascular plants so, as native plant enthusiasts, we might say that the Grampians is a botanical hot spot. The varied nature of the Park from the dry northern end, the seasonally wet valley floors, the sub-alpine mountain tops and the outwash slopes means that you can always find interesting plant communities in flower no matter what time of the year you visit.

Areas within the Grampians were set aside for special purposes including recreation, forestry and water supply long before the Park was proclaimed in 1984. With the proclamation the focus shifted more towards conservation of the natural history of the area with forestry being phased out by 1994. Water production and recreation still play an important part in the Park. The European and Aboriginal heritage within the district is strong, with more than 200 cultural sites scattered in and around the ranges.

The Park also plays an important part in contributing to the district's economy through its tourism drawcard, with estimates that it generates in excess of 2.5 million dollars annually. This reliance on the Park to support the local economy has its drawbacks. When natural events

occur, such as fire or flood, it can have a major impact on the economy of the area. This occurred in 2006 when a major fire burnt through the central area of the Park and the farmlands to the east. Almost half of the Park's 168,000 hectares burnt and much of the Park was closed for a considerable time. This event also had a significant impact on the flora and fauna of the Park and it may take many years for some species to recover.

It wasn't all doom and gloom though, with some species, whose seed had been lying dormant in the soil, just waiting for an event such as the fire, suddenly germinated *en masse*. Many of these species such as Grampians Rice-flower *Pimelea pagophila* were thought to be in decline but are now considered to have healthy, if restricted populations.

This brings me to a point of discussion which I feel we must all consider if we are serious about conserving the flora and fauna of the area. Bushfire events, when added to fuel management programs, have the capacity to put considerable stress on vegetation communities and associated fauna if fire occurs too frequently. Half the Grampians burnt five years ago and together with the area that has been burnt since 2006 and what is targeted to be burnt, we may be in a situation of up to 90% of the Park having been burnt in the last 10 years. Although fire plays an important part in the regeneration of many plants and plant communities we must ask ourselves what species may be lost if we apply too much fire to the bush?

The other major disturbance event to impact upon the Grampians recently was the floods that occurred in January of 2011 and have once again seen much of the Park closed. With a mountainous area, floods tend to be over in a short time but because of the energy involved with water travelling down steep slopes the damage can be significant.

Although the flood event lasted for a matter of days the ramifications will last a long time. Landslips occurred throughout the Park with a total of 192 slips greater than 5 metres wide totalling 74 km in length. Many of the landslips occurred within gullies and streams. The vegetation within these gullies has been significantly modified, if not completely destroyed (see photos 1, 2 and 3).

Many of the landslips started high upon the range and denuded long strips of vegetation as the debris careered down to the valley floor. We have no idea what floristic or cultural values were carried away when the slips occurred.

As gardeners we try and create micro climates within our gardens so



Photo 1 Dairy Creek: This was once a narrow tree fern lined creek and is now wide, rock strewn and devoid of almost all the understorey species including the tree ferns.

All photos by David Handscombe



Photo 2 The view looking downstream from Silverband Falls, the fallen sign (mid right of photo) shows the original ground level before the flood

that we can grow plants outside of their normal climatic range. We modify soils to suit plants from different geographic regions, but, and I think it is a big but, it doesn't matter how much we try to tame the environment, every now and then nature cuts loose and gets its own back – and there's nothing we can do about it.



Photo 3 One of many creeks that have been buried in rock from the surrounding hills.



Landslip at Mt Abrupt



Pomonal Indigenous Garden

Jane and Phil Williams

Pomonal is a small village about 10 kilometres south of Halls Gap in the Grampians. The Grampians Group of APS Vic. meets regularly in Pomonal and holds its annual show in the Village Hall. So Pomonal has a strong connection with native plants.

A few years ago a meeting was called to discuss the use of a government grant for 'Streetscape beautification'. APS members proposed a garden of local indigenous plants for an area outside the general store. At the time, the only plants growing there were exotic weed species, a few large Aloes and a lonely *Hardenbergia violacea*. There were no objections except for a general feeling that we would be lucky to get anything to grow there - it was such a degraded patch of dirt.

The plan was for APS members to take cuttings and collect seeds from nearby road reserves and remnant bush and propagate plants for the garden. It wasn't a unanimous decision to use only indigenous plants, but the chance to showcase some of our fabulous local plants was too good to miss. We had the large plants removed and the whole area was sprayed and ripped. Sand was incorporated to improve drainage and sleepers were used to lessen the slope and prevent erosion.

Most of the plants were grown in 50mm square tubes in suspension trays to reduce costs, but also because these tubes produce a healthy root system. We wanted to get the bare ground covered quickly so we included lots of *Kennedia prostrata* and *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* in our first plantings. A drip watering system was installed early on but soon became redundant owing to water restrictions. Since then the plants have survived (and mostly thrived) on natural rainfall alone.



Site weeded, ripped and sprayed. All photos Jane and Phil Williams.



Trays of tubes ready for the first planting.

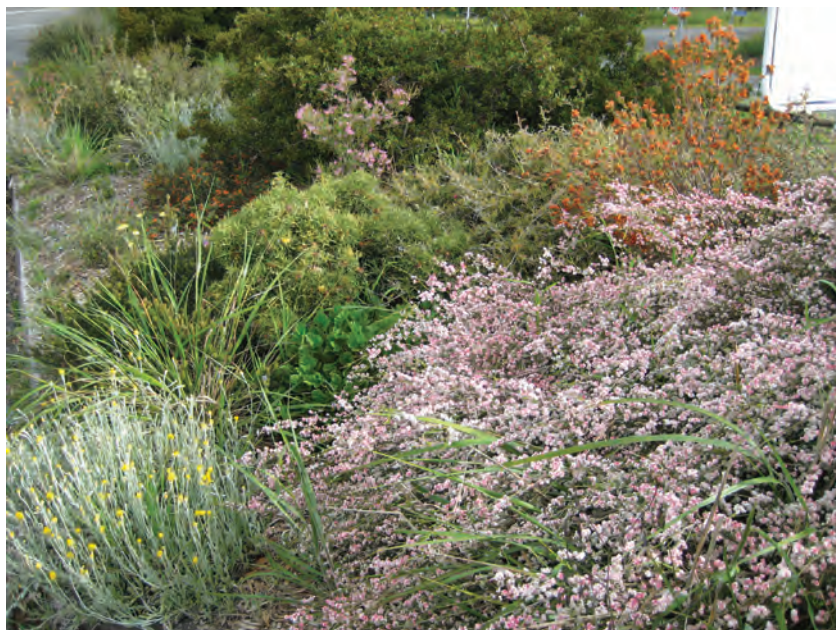


Quick ground cover from *Kennedia prostrata*

Now all that's required for maintenance is about four working bees per year to prune, weed, replace a few plants and replenish the mulch.



APS Working Bee



Plants in this shot: *Micromyrtus ciliata*, *Dillwynia sericea*, *Dodonaea viscosa ssp cuneata*, *Grevillea microstegia*, *Grevillea gariwerdensis*, *Grevillea alpina*, *Helichrysum scorpioides*, *Isopogon ceratophyllus*, *Pelargonium rodneyanum*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*.

Since writing this article, founding member of the Grampians Group Jane Williams has passed away. All ANPSA members who knew Jane will be greatly saddened by this news. She was pivotal in our group and will be fondly remembered for many years to come.

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Gardening in the Grampians

Linda Handscombe

I love a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains, of ragged mountain ranges, of droughts and flooding rains...[acknowledgements to Dorothea McKellar]...and locusts...

My husband David had always wished to return to the Grampians, his old stomping ground, and when a ranger position in the Grampians National Park came up in 1989 he took it. We built a home in Pomonal township and commenced a large garden in 1990. The ground was sloping, the soil was sandy, the weather was kind and everything flourished.

David had a yearning for a larger property with fewer neighbours so we purchased our current farm in Long Gully Rd and moved into a tiny cottage in 1997 while we built a mudbrick house in the middle of a bare paddock.

The views to Mt William and Redman's Bluff are superb, the soil is sand of varying depths from 30cm to a metre, over clay. The annual average rainfall for the area is 560mm and the ph is slightly acidic. The land slopes very gently [some people would say flat] and there are remnants of local vegetation.



Photo 1. A bare paddock and half a house. All photos by the author.



We took a long time to develop a garden around the building site for obvious reasons and the building took a long time to complete, but when we did start, we made a series of slightly raised beds around the house but a good distance away as a fire precaution. Many shrubs and trees were planted directly into the ground away from the house and rows of native and South African cut flowers were established. Garden beds were mulched extensively with wood chips. A wetland was dug down into the clay and the topsoil of sandy clay was heaped around the wetland into a raised bed. David collected many banksias and hakeas and I had a passion for correas and we amassed many other species that took our fancy.

The weather became drier and the frosts became heavier as a consequence. South westerly winds from Mt William were ferocious and David regularly pruned things back just when they were looking good to stop them from blowing over.

Igloos were built to enclose our large carnivorous plant collection and the results of our compulsive propagating. David grew thousands of revegetation plants and commenced revegetating the creek area and the garden areas began to show shape.

On the 22 January 2006 the Mt Lubra (Grampians) bushfire roared through and took out most of our good work but left the house and the cottage.

A massive amount of work was done to replace fencing, sheds, igloos and gardens. Huge bonfires of dead plants were made and garden beds were replanted and mulched with gravel. Garden paths were mulched with sand and we learnt many things about gardening following that dreadful night.

*Article continues
after insert*



Photo 2. January 23 2006

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Photo 3. The same garden 2007

To protect your home from fire, a lack of plants close by will protect it rather than the choice of plant. There isn't really any plant that doesn't burn if the conditions are bad enough.

1. Don't have garden beds against the walls of your home.
2. Don't have climbers climbing over pergolas and up verandah posts.
3. High prune tree trunks near your home to prevent the fire from reaching the canopy.
4. Mulch with inorganic material such as gravel, because wood and straw mulches burn unless they are wet.
5. MOW
6. Hedging with plants or man-made materials often diverts fire fronts.
7. Plants grown near your home should be low and not woody or containing dead material.
8. Eucalypts, callistemons, melaleucas, lilly pillies, conostylis, kangaroo paws [not black], xanthorrea, agonis, telopea and other species with lignotubers often reshot or suckered after the fire.
9. Acacias, dryandras, hakeas, banksias, eucalypts, grevilleas, peas and isopogons often regenerated by seed but be careful as some have the potential to be weedy.
10. The plants that are indigenous to your area have evolved to survive there. They will readily recover one way or another, so plant lots of those!!!! [but not too close]



Photo 4. Clear areas around the house 2010



Photo 5. Gravel mulch and sandy paths 2010

In a case of 3 steps forward, 2 steps back, 2010 saw an annual rainfall of 881mm and then 257mm by the start of March in 2011. Mt William had the highest rainfall in the state in January and that precipitated massive landslides and shedding of water down to lower lying areas. Our farm has stayed very boggy for quite some time which has seen the

loss of most of the post fire Western Australian banksias, the dryandras, diplolaenas, some grevilleas and many of our beloved correas.

More work and bonfires on the horizon! Still, the plants that don't mind wet feet are booming along, dragonflies and butterflies abound, the frog and birdlife is astounding and we don't have water up the walls, so life is good!



Photo 6. Banksias established after the bushfire have succumbed to the big wet



Photo 7. Great views from our Pomonal garden.





Gardening with Australian native plants – The added bonus of attracting our wonderful wildlife

Neil Macumber, Birdswing Birding & Wildlife Tours

Australian native plants and fauna are dependent on each other for their existence. Growing native plants, whether it is in a suburban block or a country property, will certainly attract native wildlife. Of course, in the sprawling jungle of suburbia (be it in a large city or a regional town) the vast majority of local flora has been lost as our dwellings replace once beautiful bushland. Not only have we lost vast tracts of our bushland but also the native fauna that co-existed there.

In the Grampians region many of our APS members live on properties that are larger than suburban lots. Some of these properties, partially 'cleared', still have tracts of original bushland and corridors which make it a little easier to attract fauna from surrounding areas.

Planting ground covers, shrubs and trees then landscaping using rocks, logs and constructing dry creek beds that flow into ponds/pools enhances the look of the garden, while providing excellent habitat for our wildlife. Bundles of sticks will also add habitat for insects and beetles that require cover which in turn become food for higher fauna.

Birds, mammals and insects are great pollinators and certainly a large proportion of our flora is dependent on them for survival. Seeds and fruits are also eaten and/or dispersed by fauna. Lots of our wildlife have evolved their breeding seasons around the peak flowering and fruiting times; adults are able to feed quickly allowing them more time to feed and look after their young. The many insect species attracted to a native garden will attract mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians hunting them for food. The increase in native fauna will attract predators, adding to the biodiversity of our environment.

Mammals and birds use the fibrous, papery and stringy bark produced by our native trees and shrubs as a source of nest building materials. Other plants have dense foliage or needle leaves which help to ward off predators and so provide excellent nesting sites. Excellent examples of these in the Grampians are Bushy Needlewood, *Hakea decurrens* ssp *physocarpa*, Beaked Hakea, *Hakea rostrata*, and Variable-leaved Holly Grevillea, *Grevillea aquifolium*. A wide variety of species use the hollows that develop in many of our mature trees as nesting sites.

On our 9.9 hectare property we have put a Trust for Nature covenant over our remnant bush and have planted a garden of indigenous and



Variable Holly-leaf Grevillea,
Grevillea aquifolium

other native plants around the house. I have recorded 135 native birds, seven non-native birds, 11 mammals, various bat species, seven frogs, three snakes, and one turtle and ten lizard species since moving here in 1996. Recovery after the 2006 fires has been slow, but the massive increase in rainfall over the last six months has given a significant boost to the flora and increased the numbers of wildlife, especially the insects – in particular the number and variety of butterflies.

Birds: Parrots and cockatoos have strong sharp beaks that they use to extract seed from the woody seed pods produced by many native plants; some seed gets dropped or scattered for germination. We have large flocks of Gang Gang Cockatoo coming in to feed on Brown Stringybark seeds, *Eucalyptus baxteri*.

Birds are also attracted to and feed upon the succulent fruits produced by many of our plants and eject the seeds in their droppings, thus dispersing them effectively. For example mistletoe birds and painted honeyeaters feed on mistletoe seeds, while rosellas and other species feed on the showy Kangaroo Apple berries, *Solanum aviculare*.

Lorikeets and honeyeaters are attracted to the nectar produced by our honey flora and in doing so are some of the major pollinators for our native plants. Honeyeater beaks have evolved their sharp curved shape to enable their owners to probe tubular flowers; the tongue has developed to effectively suck nectar. You will find them feeding on grevilleas, *Epacris impressa* and *Correa reflexa* and many other species. Lorikeets use their brush tongues to do the same with eucalypt and banksia flowers.



The long tubular flowers of Flame Heath *Astroloma conostephioides* are designed to be pollinated by honeyeaters such as the Eastern Spinebill

With eight species of fruit pigeons and a further fifteen ground-feeding pigeons and doves, Australia has a good variety that may well be attracted to our gardens. A large part of the diet of many ground feeding doves and pigeons includes fallen acacia seeds and some berries, whilst fruit pigeons live on our native fruits and berries like the lilly pilly, ficus and polyscias species. In the cooler gullies in the Grampians the showy small berries of Prickly Coprosma, *Coprosma quadrifida*, and the fruits of Orange Bell-climber, *Marianthus bignoniaceus*, are popular with fruit eating birds.



Orange Bell-climber *Marianthus bignoniaceus*

Finches are some of our most beautifully coloured birds, and are more usually known as 'grass finches'. Planting a variety of native grasses is the most reliable means of attracting finches to the garden. They will eat the seeds and use the grasses to build their nests. One of our most beautiful native finches is the Diamond Firetail Finch and it is readily attracted to gardens around the Grampians by planting a variety of Wallaby-grasses *Austrodanthonia* spp., particularly the rare Leafy Wallaby-grass *Austrodanthonia bipartita* and Common Wallaby-grass *A. caespitosa*.

Wrens and many other insect eaters will usually be attracted to the garden because of the vast variety of insects that come to visit our gardens. Species include willy wagtail, grey fantail, cuckoo, cuckoo-shrike, robin, magpie, magpie lark, raven, currawong, babbler, treecreeper, whistler, woodswallow, and shrikethrush. The little Superb Fairy-wren with its tail sitting erect up from its body and the shimmering black and blue plumage of the male make it a stunner to attract to the garden, even though it is relatively common in a large area of Eastern Australia. There are eight other species of Fairy-wren across Australia. Amazingly, Fairy-wrens like to nest low to the ground and usually in a prickly or dead or half-dead bush or grass tussock. For this reason you should never have cats in the garden and should be very careful removing all dead plants – leave a bit of a mess for the wrens!



Leafless Bitter-pea *Davesia brevifolia*
—an ideal low shrub for nesting wrens.



Horny Conebush *Isopogon ceratophyllus*

Mammals: A good variety of mammals can be attracted to the home garden. The Common Brush-tailed Possum and Common Ring-tailed Possum are two of our more well known native mammals that will readily visit the garden. They will eat a variety of native fruits and leaves such as lilly pilly and Native Cherry-ballart, *Exocarpus cupressiformis*.

If you are lucky you may have sugar gliders come visiting; they will eat mainly insects and also bite little nicks into the bark of acacia trees. They will usually visit these trees and lick the sap that flows from the resulting wound. They also absolutely love mistletoe flowers and fruits so if you are lucky enough to have these in your trees you may get sugar gliders.

Yellow Footed Antechinus are endearing little marsupial carnivores that certainly may visit the native garden. They will make a small soft nest out of grasses, wool, feathers etc. usually in a small hollow in a tree or in a wall cavity, wood shed or suitable place. They are larger than mice around 100mm head/body and don't smell the way mice do. Food consists of insects, worms, spiders, mice and locusts and they often take nectar from low shrubs such as isopogons and grevilleas. The recent locust plague in our region has allowed antechinus to breed up to good numbers.

Eastern Grey Kangaroo, Western Grey Kangaroo, Black (swamp) Wallaby, Red Necked Wallaby have all visited our garden but can be very destructive at times, crashing through and also 'pruning' plants to within an inch of their lives. It pays to fence these out of the home garden and keep them in the bushland areas where they are valuable in keeping grasses down, making the area more 'fire safe'.

Reptiles and Frogs: A good range of skinks, dragons, geckos and frogs have taken up residence in our garden. If the habitat is there they will come and take up residence. We get the odd snake visiting which are after the aforementioned reptiles and frogs. An attractive pond with a variety of native water plants and rocks or logs for added cover will certainly help bring in frogs.

Insects: A vast array of insects has either made the garden home or are visitors passing through. Butterflies are another beautiful addition to the garden; we have had at least one dozen species visit. Butterfly attracting plants are daisies, particularly the local Common Everlasting *Chrysocephalum apiculatum* and Golden Everlasting *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, Sweet Bursaria *Bursaria spinosa*, Heath Tea-tree *Leptospermum myrsinoides*, the Fringe-myrtles *Calytrix tetragona*, *C. sullivanii* and *C. alpestris*, Rice-flowers particularly *Pimelea humilis* and *P. ferruginea*, Creamy Candles *Stackhousia monogyna* and Austral Grass-tree *Xanthorrhoea australis* etc. Dragonflies are a further delight to have in the garden and having a pond will usually have them turning up very quickly.

Good planting and have fun identifying the wildlife that turns up.



Heath Tea-tree, *Leptospermum myrsinoides*, is ideal for attracting insects to your garden
All photos by Neil Marriott



'Panrock Ridge'

Neil & Wendy Marriott

'Panrock Ridge' is part of the Black Range, a granitic intrusion running south from around the Western Highway just to the south-east of Stawell. We are on a high ridge, with elevated views across the plains to the west to the Grampians, and east to Mt Langi Ghiran and Mt Cole Range beyond. As a result, we are fortunate to have a wide range of sites from north to south-facing, hot and dry amongst the numerous massive granite tors and cool and wet in the valleys and ephemeral swamps.

After purchasing the property in 1991, I spent the first three years eradicating rabbits using every means possible! We still have small numbers but with good rabbit-proof fences they now cause little problem to our gardens. In 1994 I began establishing an extensive collection of Grevilleas from every state in Australia. We are fortunate in being on a hilltop, so frosts are minimal and our worst are around -1° or -2°C . This has meant we can grow most species including many of the "tropicals".



Gardens at Panrock Ridge with *Pileanthus rubrinitidus*, *Grevillea polybotrya*, *Grevillea* 'Desert Gold' and *Banksia attenuata*.

All photos by Neil Marriott



Part of garden beds that survived the bushfire owing to inorganic mulch.

By the late 1990s I had over 250 species and subspecies and the collection was registered with the Garden Plant Conservation Association of Australia. It also became the official living collection of the ANPSA Grevillea Study Group. However 1997 marked the first year of well below average rainfall for the region and tragically, on New Year's Eve 2005 we were burnt out in a massive bushfire in the middle of a 13 year drought.

Sadly, due to the drought, only around 30% of all species and subspecies recovered from the fire – undoubtedly due to the severe impacts of the drought. Only around 15% of all species recovered by seed germination and around the same amount recovered by re-shooting from lignotuber, epicormic buds or root suckers. Fortunately several of the seedlings have proven to be wonderful new hybrids, and Austraflo Nurseries are in the process of trialling and mass-producing these for the nursery trade. And now, following wonderful, above average rains for the last two years we are in the process of re-establishing as many species and cultivars as possible.

From the fires we have learnt that organic mulch is a disaster, whereas sand or pebble mulches reduce the impact of fire and often prevent it completely. We also learnt that a good water supply to the edges of all garden areas is essential so sprinklers and hoses can be used to prevent the spread of fire.



Banksia rosserae flowering in Banksia Garden.

We have now established many new garden beds with particular themes; Western Grevilleas, NSW Grevilleas, Dwarf Banksias, Eremophila Garden, Kwongan Garden, Goodeniaceae Garden, Banksia Walk, Wattle Walk etc. We have also re-planted our cut flower plantations with many hundreds of Banksias, Telopeas, Dryandra, Chamelaucium etc.

Amazingly, our Rainforest Gully has recovered superbly, with many species of *Syzigium*, *Polyscias*, *Rapanea* and many more re-shooting and growing back strongly following the good rains. Large numbers of new rainforest species have been replanted into the area this winter, so we are hoping for a mild moist summer to allow them to become established. Another revelation was that nearly all Western Australian plant species survived the drought far better than the local indigenous species. WA kwongan species and inland species in particular not only survived but thrived, flowering superbly despite the lack of rain.



'Silver Princess' *Eucalyptus caesia* ssp *magna* flowering freely at the height of the drought.

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Growing Correas in the Grampians

Joan Pitaro

I joined the Grampians Group of APS in 1982, not long after the group started, and my first native garden bed was a tiny rockery. Thus began my passion for growing Australian plants and a steep learning curve involving a good number of failures.

Unlike many of my Grampians Group friends who live in Pomonal at the foot of the Grampians, I live in Ararat (approx 30kms east of Mt William in the Grampians as the crow flies.) and instead of deep sandy soil I have shallow clayey loam on top of clay. My garden beds are slightly raised and our block is on the high side of our road so drainage is good.

Banksias, grevilleas and other lovely sand loving plants soon made it known that they didn't like my soil but the little correas I planted grew on happily without any fuss. As a result I became very fond of these hardy plants and built up quite a collection in my suburban garden.

Some of those so called little plants have grown much bigger than I had imagined or wanted. Ignorance is bliss –for a while!! I am now having to do some serious pruning or removal of some of my first plants. *Correa* "Marion's Marvel" is a good example of this. My original plant is 2m x 3m and looking a bit "leggy". It was hit by consecutive days over 44 degrees during summer 2009 and many leaves burnt and dropped off. I did cut parts of the bush back quite hard and it has responded well but I am still considering replacing it with a smaller variety.

Correas are easily grown from cuttings and many of my plants have come from Correa Study Group "cuttings swaps".

I fertilise my plants with slow release granules when I plant them out and they grow well without any further feeding. I have found it is important to prune correas after flowering if you want to maintain a compact plant that flowers well. I would have to confess that it has taken me a while to learn this but correas are very forgiving and will respond to very hard pruning in most cases.

I find the most hardy plants are *Correa alba*, *C. backhouseana*, *C. glabra* and their crosses. eg. *C. 'Coconut Ice'*, *'Candy Pink'*, *'Marions Marvel'*, *'Boat Harbour'* and *'Inglewood Gold'*.

The correas I find the most difficult to grow are some of the orange *Correa puchella* forms. I am not sure why that is because the *C. pulchella* 'Pink Mist', pictured on next page, is very hardy.

The correas in my garden have survived very well during the dry years we have had. I have learnt that correas can look very stressed during dry periods and will stay in that state for a period of time and when it rains they will miraculously come back to life. By that I mean the leaves become more hydrated and lift to a more horizontal position (depending on the species). Originally I would give plants a little water when they looked droopy but after a number of very dry summers and harsh water restrictions, I have found that most plants will survive without watering, although they look as though they are about to die.

So far I have never had a plant die due to wet but the present weather will be a good test, as we, like most of Eastern Australia, have had a very wet spring and summer. Friends at Pomonal who grow a lot of correas have lost quite a few through this spring and summer.

Flowering time is dependent on when we get an Autumn break and will continue into spring depending on the season. Some species do flower earlier than others.

The main flowering period for correas grown in the Grampians region is June and July. *Correa* 'Clare' which I grew from a seedling in my garden, flowers later than my other correas and is always in full flower for our Group's flower show at the beginning of October. Most correas have finished flowering by then. *Correa* 'Candy Pink' is one of the first to flower in my garden and can still have a few flowers on it for our flower show.

Correas are great plants to plant under trees where nothing else can be grown. I have a number growing around the base of a large *Melaleuca*



Correa
'Pink Mist'



armillaris. Two of these plants are *C.glabra* forms and they are thick healthy plants. Under trees in heavy shade is not an ideal spot though as plants tend to be spindly and flower poorly.

One problem many correa growers around the Grampians have is the crimson rosellas. For some reason they like to pull the flowers off the plants and while this does the plant no harm, it does spoil the display of flowers. Thankfully the Ararat rosellas have yet to discover the joy of pulling flowers off correas.

I have found that genus *Correa* is one of the most reliable and attractive in my situation. They flower well, bushes are generally compact and respond well to pruning, and they come in a range of colours and sizes so you can always find space for another one.



Correa 'Clare'

Growing Grampians Thryptomene, *Thryptomene calycina*, commercially in the Grampians

Bruce Winfield

Bruce is the fourth generation of his family to pursue the cut flower farming industry. Bruce's grandfather started the Grampians Thryptomene flower industry and now Bruce and his family run a large business supplying both the national and international industry with many of their own selections of "Grampians Thryp" grown in extensive plantations on the slopes of the ranges.

Thryptomene calycina is a beautiful winter flowering plant endemic to the Grampians region in Victoria. My great grandfather first harvested thryptomene for sale in the Melbourne Market in 1929 and began cultivating *Thryptomene calycina* in the early 1930s. Gradually over the years the business has been handed down from father to son until the fourth generation roams amongst the fragrant bushes.

In the early days the original two acres was cleared the hard way with a shovel and mattock until the modern day where I own and manage over 500 acres of cut flowers using the easier tools of tractor and discs.

Over the years the Winfield family have chosen special cultivars to extend the harvesting season from the initial flowering time of winter



Close up of Grampians Thryptomene flowers and buds Photo Neil Marriott



to now providing a flowering season for up to five months each year dependent on weather conditions. Harvesting techniques have not changed; each stem is selected by the harvester for the length and quality of the stem and cut using secateurs. Back-breaking work some days but no one complains about the views of the majestic mountains.

The cultivated thryptomene has taken on different characteristics from the natural grown flower. It has taken on a more solid, sturdy appearance and regular harvesting each year ensures the fineness of the stem to answer one of the needs of the florist industry. Once harvested, thryptomene can survive for up to three weeks in a vase with regular water top ups, making it a sought-after florist line for the value that it provides.

My parents first exported thryptomene to the U.S.A in 1984 and the Americans love the thryptomene for use as a 'filler.' This means that the thryptomene is placed around the focal flower, – a rose, gerbera or protea and the thryptomene makes up the bulk of the delivered bouquet.

I first began my personal journey with thryptomene at the age of 8, hurrying home from the school bus to pick up my secateurs and venture out amongst the flowers where I was truly at home. My wife often jokes I have green blood and I'm sure she is right. The harvested product is bundled up into larger bundles, hoisted above the shoulder and transported to the processing shed where it is graded into the length and quality needed for specific orders.

Thryptomene calycina is now a protected plant in the National Park so the lovely flower you see in your bouquet from the florists will be cultivated from a property such as ours.

I first began propagating thryptomene at age 18 under the guidance of Elspeth Jacobs, so I had a very expert hand guiding my journey on to the wonderful area of propagation. Along with my wife Sue, we have a wholesale and retail native nursery at the base of the Grampians, passing on our love of Australian natives to all who stop by.

Being an endemic plant to the Grampians, *Thryptomene calycina* needs no further watering after planting. During the recent drought plants toughened up or perished. It is only now, after nearly 30 inches of rain in 2010 that we find we are losing precious bushes as they react to having such wet feet; specifically those that were planted during the 12 year drought. They are unsure of how to react with the extra rainfall.

Thryptomene calycina grows in a wide range of soils - sandy, sandy loam, even clay loam. The amount of rainfall, or lack of, governs

the lifespan of the plant in the heavier soils. Generally it grows for 15–20 years. Thryptomene prefers sandy soils as this is the natural environment around the Laharum area of the Grampians.

Over the years our environmental practices have changed. Where once we cultivated soil after planting to encourage moisture absorption and remove weeds, we now leave a certain amount of vegetation to encourage worm activity to ensure a healthy, sustainable soil. Good drainage is important to the health of the thryptomene plant so we ensure that the areas planted are not verging on being too wet.

Also, where once we fertilised plants in the field on a regular basis we now only treat the soil, adding nutrients that are lacking and replacing those essentials that have disappeared from the ground. After trialling custom blends over the years we have found a commercial product that is a humus rich seaweed and manure blend and is all natural. Even this is only added when the soil is found to be lacking, leaving the plant to strengthen and mature on its own.



One of our selected Grampians Thryptomene in full flower
Photo Sue Winfield

The Pomonal Native Flower Show

Linda Handscombe

The arrival of Glynn and Peg Sago to Pomonal from the Maroondah APS group in Melbourne was probably the catalyst for the creation of this iconic native flower show held in the Grampians in western Victoria on the first weekend in October. Together with Jane and Phil Williams of the Pomonal Wildflower Nursery, they regularly travelled to Horsham for the Wimmera Native Plant Group meetings until they formed their own SGAP group in Pomonal in 1981, with Glynn as president and Jane as secretary. The first show was held in the Pomonal Hall in September 1983. With direction from Jane Marriott, the show was a simple display with flowers in jam jars, some plant and book sales, a fern display and a superb display of Fungi watercolours by Stan Kelly, all fitting within the walls of the hall. The wonderful Alby Lindner from Quantong, west of Horsham, provided masses of beautiful banksias, dryandra and rare mallee eucalypts from his famous 'Banksia Hill'.

As the members of the group became more adventurous and grew a wider variety of plants in their gardens, the show became more spectacular. Following shows were themed based, the more memorable being "All the Colours of the Rainbow", "The Goldfields", "Floral Emblems of Australia", "Small Plants for Urban Gardens", "An Oz Plant for Every Situation", "More than Just Flowers", "Bird Attracting Flowers", "Escape to your Garden", "Grevilleas", "The Garden and Beyond", "Grampians, Garden and Koori Plants", "25th Anniversary Spectacular", "You can do it too" and "What's in a Name?" Many of the themed shows featured props and landscaping material. The Goldfields show included many mining tools and rocks and was the first show to utilise the stage area and the floor for display.

As the show became larger and the floral display took up more space, plant sales were relegated to the outside area.



Photo 1 The stage and many props are used to great advantage.

For many years Stan Kelly, renowned artist and illustrator of *Eucalypts* 1 and 2, not only displayed his paintings on the walls, but he painted flower specimens during the show to the delight of visitors. He also painted several very large and beautiful backdrops which are still in use today. Local resident Elsie Russell, an expert floral artist, created extraordinary arrangements for the entrance to the hall in the early years of the show.

Jam jar display bottles became more sophisticated with the addition of PVA glue and redgum sawdust and many metres of hessian were purchased to cover trestles. In recent years, new streamlined trestles with tiered shelving have given a less cluttered and brighter appearance to the show.



Photo 2
The 25th Anniversary show.



Photo 3 Massed flowers amaze the visitors.



Photo 4 Many Western Australian species grow well in the Grampians and are on display.

The 25 members of the Group pick, name and display flowers the day before the show and, as our policy is to now to only display those plants our members can grow, all specimens come from members' gardens. Each specimen is named with genus and species names and visitors are encouraged to take pen and paper around and create their own wish lists. Members are available to give growing advice and assistance.

The nature of the sandy soils, granite loams, heavy clays and gravelly goldfields soils in the area has enabled members to grow plants from all over Australia including "hard to grow" Western Australian species and the diverse nature of Australian plants ensures that visitors see a wide range of flower and plant types and uses. Bold, colourful and showy flowers, subtle flowers, petite, dainty flowers and flowers suitable for a myriad of uses such as groundcovers, hedges, bird attracters, pond plants, pot plants, specimen plants and cut flowers abound.

The group meets on the third Tuesday of every month [except January] and strives to provide a wide range of plant knowledge, practical information and friendly interaction in each yearly program. Speakers, slideshows and practical hands-on nights are all popular. The group has an extensive library and a "show and tell" specimen table is conducted where plants can be shown or identified.

The theme for 2011, "In Your Backyard", will inspire some creativity with potted natives, ponds and props galore!

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The members of SGAP Queensland region are waiting enthusiastically to welcome you to the ANPSA 2013 Conference to be held in late winter at Alexandra Park on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. We want to share with you the diversity of Queensland's flora and this is reflected in the theme 'Diversity is in our Nature'.

During the seminar we will introduce you to some of the diverse people, diverse plants and the diverse places of the Sunshine State.

We are planning 'diverse' pre and post conference tours:

Bunya Mountains & Darling Downs

TOUR A: August 4 - 9 TOUR B: August 17 - 22

Explore the hinterland of SE Queensland along the Great Divide, impressive Bunya Pines, Bottle Trees & Grass Trees at the Bunya Mtns, Kingaroy, Bell, Toowoomba, Cunningham's Gap. Coach & motel accommodation.

Sandstone & Brigalow

TOUR C: August 4 - 9

Adventure tour of the Central Q coast and highlands ; Rockhampton, Byfield, Blackdown Tableland, Cania Gorge, Boyne River Valley, Tondoon Botanic Gardens, Gladstone. Coach & camping in tents.

Rainforest meets the Barrier Reef

TOUR D: August 17 - 22

Central Qld Coast (Dry Tropics) - Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, Eungella, Cape Hillsborough, Airlie Beach, Whitsunday Islands & Whitehaven Beach (Barrier Reef), Cape Gloucester, Hideaway Bay. Coach & motel accommodation.

For more information contact:

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