



March 2019

## Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club Newsletter



*Hakea chordophylla*, Bootlace Tree. This was one of the Latin names discussed by Cyd Holden at the ASFNC February presentation. Hakea is named after a German botanist Baron Christian Ludwig von Hake, *Chorde* meaning "gut", "string of a musical instrument", "twine" or "rope" and *phyllon* meaning "leaf". It is distributed fairly widely in the NT, as well as across WA and Qld. See page 3.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except December & January) at 7:00 PM at Higher Education Building at Charles Darwin University. Visitors are welcome.

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## NEWSLETTER

The next newsletter will be April 2019.

The deadline for the next newsletter will be 23 March 2019.

Please send your contributions to Barb Gilfedder: [bjfedders@gmail.com](mailto:bjfedders@gmail.com)

[Please contact leaders if you intend going on any field trips.](#)

### **ALICE SPRINGS FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB**

#### **Wednesday 13 March.**

**ASFNC Monthly get-together** at 7.00pm in the lecture theatre in the Higher Education Building at CDU. **Simon Ward** and **Robyn Delaney** will be taking us along on their 16 day walk from Finke Gorge NP to Watarrka NP in July 2019. All welcome. Presentation followed by tea, coffee and a light supper, and a brief general meeting.

#### **Wednesday 10 April.**

**ASFNC Monthly get-together** at 7.00pm in the lecture theatre in the Higher Education Building at CDU. **Billy Ross** will be talking about his research into Quolls. All welcome. Presentation followed by tea, coffee and a light supper, and a brief general meeting.

### **AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY ALICE SPRINGS**

[apsalicesprings@yahoo.com.au](mailto:apsalicesprings@yahoo.com.au)>

#### **Wednesday 6 March 7.30pm at OPBG**

AGM, followed by a presentation by Doug McDougall about his time at Jerusalem Botanical Gardens where he was based for 6 months last year. He will also take us to his favourite natural places in Israel, from the alpine regions in the north to desert canyons in the south. Light supper following. All welcome.

#### **Alice Springs Field Naturalists Club Committee Members**

|                       |                   |              |                         |               |              |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>President</b>      | Barbara Gilfedder | 8955 5452    | <b>Treasurer</b>        | Neil Woolcock | 8955 1021    |
| <b>Vice-President</b> | Lee Ryall         | 0417 401 237 | <b>Property Officer</b> | Rosalie Breen | 8952 3409    |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Anne Pye          | 0438 388 012 | <b>Public Officer</b>   | Anne Pye      | 0438 388 012 |

**Committee Members:** Robyn Grey-Gardner 89 52 2207, Margaret Friedel 0417 849 743, Simon Brown 0429 359 593

**Some other Club Responsibilities:** Newsletter – Barb Gilfedder, Minutes Secretary – Connie Spencer, Facebook Organiser – Colleen O'Malley, Website - Pamela Keil 8955 0496 and Robyn Grey-Gardner 8952 2207

### **Large-tailed Nightjar in Katherine**

Jenny Purdie

Steve came home with a young bird wrapped in a cloth, which he picked up in our neighbour's driveway saying it must have fallen out of the nest. We identified it as a Large-tailed Nightjar and read they nest on the ground! He took it straight back (which he always intended to do) and placed in the grass near the driveway and hopefully its parents found it.

It didn't have the spots of adults but the blue feathers looked the same



ASFNC Presentation – 13 February 2018.

## Cyd Holden “*Basic Botanical Latin*”

Many thanks to Cyd for this fascinating and humorous talk.

We have used Cyd’s hand-out and great word lists to share it in the newsletter with those unable to attend. Ed.

### Why use a scientific name?

Common names often seem easier to remember than scientific names, but they are not as precise. Not only can a common name refer to very different plants, conversely a single species can have more than one common name. This can lead to confusion, and potentially to serious problems if people confuse weedy or poisonous species with harmless species.

For example - besides the ordinary garden roses (genus *Rosa*), how many other kinds of plant have the word 'rose' in their name?

- Wood Roses (several species in family Convolvulaceae)
- The Rose of Sharon (this name used for at least three different plants by different people: *Hypericum calycinum*, *Lilium candidum* and *Tulipa agenensis* subsp. *boissieri*)
- The Rose Geranium (*Pelargonium X asperum*)
- Sturt's Desert Rose (*Gossypium sturtianum*)
- The Christmas Rose (*Helleborus niger*), and
- Our Native Rose (*Boronia serrulata*), which is also known as the Rose Boronia.

Latin was used as the language for scientific names because it is considered a "dead" language. This means no new words or slang are created or changed through the years.

### How do we classify a plant?

The act of classification can be defined as ‘the grouping of individuals so that all the individuals in one group have certain features or properties in common’.

Classifications should have predictive value, that is, they should tell us something about the object being named and its features. Take, for example, New South Wales's floral emblem, the Waratah. It is classified scientifically as follows:

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Order: Proteales  
Family: Proteaceae  
Subfamily: Grevilleoideae  
Genus: *Telopea*  
Species: *speciosissima*

Each level in this inclusive classification gives us more information about the Waratah so that we build up a mental picture of its features:

- Plantae: tells us that this is a green plant, not an animal or bacterium
- Magnoliophyta: that this is a plant with cotyledons, real flowers and seeds
- Proteales: that it has, for example, 4 perianth segments in each flower
- Proteaceae: that it has a unique flower structure with 3 of the perianth segments fused and 1 free
- Grevilleoideae: that its flowers occur in pairs
- *Telopea*: that it has large pinkish red bracts surrounding the head-like flowerhead.

'*Telopea*', by the way, comes from the Greek word telopos, meaning 'seen from afar' because of the conspicuous reddish flowerheads of the Waratah. The other part of its name '*speciosissima*' also refers to its flowerheads (the most spectacular flowerheads of all the species of *Telopea*), coming from the Latin adjective speciosus meaning 'showy' or 'splendid' and sissima meaning 'very'. [We often call plants just by the genus and species names – the genus having a capital letter and both words being in italics.](#)

The two parts of a binomial name can each be derived from a number of sources, of which Latin is only one. These include:

- Latin, either classical or medieval. Thus both parts of the binomial name *Homo sapiens* are Latin words, meaning "wise" (*sapiens*) "human/man" (*Homo*).
- Classical Greek. The genus *Rhododendron* was named by Linnaeus from the Greek words *rhodos*, rose, and *dendron*, tree. Greek words are often converted to a Latinized form. Thus coca (the plant from which cocaine is obtained) has the name *Erythroxylum coca*. *Erythroxylum* is derived from the Greek words *erythros*, red, and *xylon*, wood. The Greek neuter ending -ov (-on) is often converted to the Latin neuter ending -um.
- Other languages. The second part of the name *Erythroxylum coca* is derived from *kuka*, the name of the plant in Aymara and Quechua both South American languages.
- Names of people (often naturalists or biologists). The name *Magnolia campbellii* commemorates two people: Pierre Magnol, a French botanist, and Archibald Campbell, a doctor in British India.
- Names of places. The *Ravenalla madagascariensis* comes from Madagascar.
- Other sources. Some binominal names have been constructed from anagrams or other re-orderings of existing names. Thus the name of the genus *Muilla* is derived by reversing the name *Allium*. Names may also be derived from jokes or puns. For example, Ratcliffe described a number of species of Rhinoceros beetle, including *Cyclocephala nodanotherwon*

Below is the meaning of some common Latin words that can help you know more about your plants.

| Colours             |                      | Form or Habit     |                     |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| <i>alba</i>         | white                | <i>esculenta</i>  | edible              |
| <i>ater</i>         | black                | <i>globosa</i>    | rounded             |
| <i>aurea</i>        | gold                 | <i>lanceolata</i> | lance-shaped (leaf) |
| <i>azur</i>         | blue                 | <i>maculata</i>   | spotted             |
| <i>chrysus</i>      | yellow               | <i>magnus</i>     | large               |
| <i>coccineus</i>    | scarlet              | <i>nana</i>       | dwarf               |
| <i>ebenus</i>       | ebony                | <i>pendula</i>    | weeping             |
| <i>erythro</i>      | red                  | <i>prostrata</i>  | creeping            |
| <i>ferrugineus</i>  | rusty                | <i>reptans</i>    | creeping            |
| <i>flava</i>        | yellow               | Common Root Words |                     |
| <i>haema</i>        | blood red            | <i>anthos</i>     | flower              |
| <i>lacteus</i>      | milky                | <i>brev</i>       | short               |
| <i>leuc</i>         | white                | <i>carpa</i>      | fruit               |
| <i>nigra</i>        | black/dark           | <i>flora</i>      | flower              |
| <i>purpureus</i>    | purple               | <i>folius</i>     | foliage             |
| <i>rosea</i>        | rose                 | <i>grandi</i>     | large               |
| <i>rubra</i>        | red                  | <i>lepto</i>      | slender             |
| <i>sulphureus</i>   | yellow               | <i>macro</i>      | large               |
| <i>virens</i>       | green                | <i>medio</i>      | intermediate        |
| Origins or Habitat  |                      | <i>mega</i>       | big                 |
| <i>alpinus</i>      | alpine               | <i>micro</i>      | small               |
| <i>australis</i>    | from the south       | <i>mono</i>       | single              |
| <i>borealis</i>     | from the north       | <i>multi</i>      | many                |
| <i>japonica</i>     | Japan                | <i>odora</i>      | having scent        |
| <i>montana</i>      | mountains            | <i>phylla</i>     | leaf/foilage        |
| <i>occidentalis</i> | West - North America | <i>platy</i>      | flat/broad          |
| <i>orientalis</i>   | East - Asia          | <i>Poly</i>       | many                |
| <i>sylvestris</i>   | woodland             | <i>vulgaris</i>   | common              |



A few of the Latin names Cyd mentioned were above clockwise from top left:- *Acacia inequilatera* (from Akakia – thorny and the leaves divided into unequal parts); *Eremophila longifolia* (desert loving and long-leaved); *Ptilotus exultatus* (a feather or wing and raised high); *Corymbia opaca* (flat-topped inflorescence and shady) Below: *Acacia latzii* (many plants are named after people. Not by the people themselves but by others).



**abyssinica** = from Abyssinia (Ethiopia) (North Africa)  
**acaulis** = stemless  
**aestivalis** = flowering in spring  
**alba** = white  
**alpestris** = from mountains  
**alpicola** = from mountains  
**alpina** = from the alps  
**altissima** = tallest  
**america** = from America  
**angustifolia** = narrow-leaved  
**annua** = annual  
**-antha** = -flowered (e.g. micrantha = small-flowered)  
**arboricola** = living on trees  
**arctica** = from the arctic  
**arenaria** = from sandy places  
**argentea** = silvery  
**armata** = prickly  
**arvensis** = of the field  
**aurantiaca** = orange  
**aurea** = golden, yellow  
**australis** = from the south (not necessarily Australia)  
**autumnalis** = of autumn  
**azurea** = blue  
**barbata** = bearded, hairy  
**bellidifolia** = with leaves like those of a daisy  
**borealis** = from the north  
**bulbifera** = bearing bulbs  
**bulgarica** = from Bulgaria  
**caerulea** = blue  
**caespitosa** = dense  
**campanulata** = campanulate, like a bell  
**campestris** = of the field  
**canadensis** = from Canada  
**canariensis** = from the Canary Isles  
**capensis** = from the Cape, South Africa  
**chilensis** = from Chile  
**chinensis** = from China  
**chrysantha** = yellow  
**clivora** = from the hills  
**coccinea** = red  
**compacta** = compact  
**decidua** = deciduous  
**densiflora** = dense-flowered  
**digitata** = (leaves) like a hand, with five lobes  
**edulis** = edible  
**esculenta** = edible  
**farinosa** = floury, powdery  
**ficifolia** = like a fig leaf  
**flava** = yellow  
**-flora** = -flowered (e.g. viridiflora = green-flowered)  
**Flore plena** = with double flowers  
**florida** = floriferous  
**foetida** = with an unpleasant smell  
**-folia** = -leaved (e.g. tenuifolia = narrow-leaved)  
**foliosa** = leafy  
**fruticosa** = shrubby

**gigantea** = giant  
**glabra** = smooth  
**glacialis** = from cold areas  
**glutinosa** = sticky  
**graeca** = from Greece  
**graminifolia** = with grassy leaves  
**grandiflora** = large-flowered  
**grandis** = big  
**helvetica** = from Switzerland  
**hirsuta** = hairy  
**hispida** = bristly  
**humilis** = short  
**hyemalis** = of winter  
**incana** = grey  
**inodora** = unscented  
**integrifolia** = entire, undivided (leaves)  
**japonica** = from Japan  
**lanata** = woolly  
**lanceolata** = lance-shaped (leaves)  
**latifolia** = wide-leaved  
**longiflora** = with long flowers  
**longifolia** = with long leaves  
**lutea** = yellow  
**macrantha** = large flowered  
**macro-** = large- (e.g. **macrorhiza** = large-rooted)  
**macrocarpa** = large-fruited  
**macrophylla** = with large leaves  
**macrorrhiza** = with large roots  
**maculata** = spotted  
**magellanica** = from the south of South America  
**magenta** = magenta  
**magna** = big  
**majus** = bigger  
**maritima** = maritime, near the sea  
**maxima** = biggest  
**mexicana** = from Mexico  
**micrantha** = small flowered **microphylla** = small leaves  
**millefolia** = with many (thousands of) leaves  
**minima** = small  
**minor** = smaller  
**montana** = from mountains  
**multiflora** = many flowered  
  
**muralis** = growing on walls  
**nana** = small  
**nocturna** = nocturnal  
**ochroleuca** = cream  
**odorata** = perfumed  
**officinalis** = with herbal uses  
**ovalifolia** = with oval leaves  
**pallida** = cream  
**palustris** = from marshes  
**parvi-** = small- (e.g. parviflora = small-flowered)  
**parviflora** = small flowered  
**parvifolia** = with small leaves  
**pauci-** = few- (e.g. pauciflora = few-flowered)  
**pauciflora** = few-flowered

**paucifolia** = with few leaves  
**phoenicea** = purple **pendula** = hanging  
**perennis** = perennial  
**-phylla** = -leaved (e.g. macrophylla = large-leaved)  
**pinnata** = with pinnate leaves  
**poly-** = many (e.g. polyantha = many-flowered)  
**polyphylla** = with many leaves, leafy  
**praecox** = early, of spring  
**pratensis** = field  
**procumbens** = creeping  
**prostrata** = prostrate  
**pulverulenta** = dusty  
**pumila** = small  
**punica** = red  
**purpurea** = deep pink **pygmaea** = small  
**quercifolia** = oak-leaved  
**rediviva** = perennial  
**rivalis** = from near rivers  
  
**rivularis** = from near rivers  
**rosea** = rose pink  
**rotundifolia** = round-leaved  
**rubra** = red  
**rupestris** = of hills  
**rupicola** = of hills  
**russica** = from Russia  
**sanguinea** = blood-red  
**sativa** = cultivated  
**saxatilis** = of rocks  
**scaber** = climbing  
**scandens** = climbing  
**semperviva** = perennial  
**sibirica** = from Siberia  
**sinense** = from China  
**somnifera** = inducing sleep  
**spicata** = spiked  
**spinosa** = spiny  
**stellata** = starry  
**sulphurea** = yellow  
**sylvestris** = of woods  
**tenuifolia** = with thin, narrow leaves  
**texensis** = from Texas  
**tomentosa** = tomentose, woolly  
**trifoliata** = trifoliolate, with three-lobed leaves  
**umbellata** = umbellate, with flowers in an umbel  
**velutina** = velvety  
**vernalis** = of spring  
**villosa** = hairy  
**violacea** = violet  
**viridis** = green  
**viscosa** = sticky  
**vitifolia** = with leaves like a vine  
**volubilis** = twining  
**vulgaris** = common

## Growing Sturt Desert Peas at the Australian National Botanic Gardens in Mildura.

Pictured right is part of the extensive display of Sturt Desert Peas, *Swainsona formosa*, at the Australian National Botanic Garden at Mildura. It was absolutely stunning. While travelling from Canberra to Adelaide, because of a storm the day before and more rain on the horizon, we found ourselves with an extra day in Mildura, so pleased we did. It was very hot and also quite humid.



The leaflet we picked up there, tells us that “Sturt Desert Peas were chosen for an experimental project because they can be difficult to grow outside their natural desert environment. They generally grow in the hot, arid, sandy areas of Australia including all mainland states except Victoria.

The eye-catching annual takes advantage of unpredictable rain events in its natural habitat by germinating, growing and seeding quickly. One of the reasons they can be difficult to grow is that they are prone to fungal and root diseases.

To overcome this, Mildura Gardens’ horticulturalists used seed-grown plants grafted onto the more vigorous and rot-resistant New Zealand plant, *Clianthus puniceus* (Glory Pea).

Sixty grafted plants were purchased from a wholesale nursery in Victoria that specialises in Sturt Desert Peas.

Gardens’ staff experimented with different fertilizers, pruning techniques (pinching tips to encourage compact growth) and environmental controls (bottom heat) to enhance growth.

Plants that exhibited 20-40 flowering stems and high general vigour were selected for display. Of the original 60 experimental plants, 15 are currently on display and possess up to ten times more flowering stems than you would see in the wild.

To grow plants in the ground, natural conditions can be replicated by creating built-up beds of sandy loam in full sun. Good drainage is essential and avoid getting the leaves wet. Plants perform best when grown in a well-drained potting mix in a large pot or hanging basket.”

Pictured on this page are the most common variety, bright red with a black spot or ‘boss’.





Other Desert Rose flowers on display were red with a red boss, pale pink, creamy white and darker pink.





# Australian Birds of Prey in Flight

A Photographic Guide

Richard Seaton, Mat Gilfedder, Stephen Debus



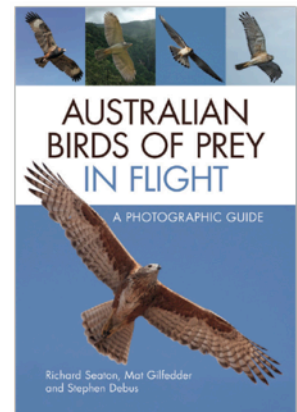
Identify the eagles, hawks, kites and falcons flying high above you with this photographic guide.

Birds of prey spend most of their time in flight and, when viewed from the ground, they are notoriously hard to identify. *Australian Birds of Prey in Flight* is a photographic guide to the eagles, hawks, kites and falcons flying high above you. Individual species profiles describe distinguishing features and the text is supported by detailed images showing the birds at six different angles and poses, using photographs from many of Australia's leading bird photographers. Annotated multi-species comparison plates highlight key features that can help differentiate birds of prey in flight.

This book will be of value to anyone who wants to learn more about Australia's birds of prey, and will provide a useful reference for identifying soaring birds in the field, and also while trying to identify images from your own camera.

## FEATURES

- First guide to focus solely on helping you to identify Australian birds of prey in flight.
- Coverage of 26 birds of prey, including all resident Australian species, as well as 2 regular visitors.
- Lavishly illustrated with photographs from many Australian bird photographers.
- Photographic plates combine multiple photographs of birds at different angles of flight for easier comparison of key characteristics.
- Detailed text and annotated photographs to explain the key features and markers that help you to identify that distant flying bird of prey.



February 2019

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**ALICE SPRINGS FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INCORPORATED**  
**Minutes of the general meeting held at the Higher Education Building**  
**Charles Darwin University – Wednesday 14 February 2019**

**Open:** Meeting open at 8:30 pm following a presentation by Cyd Holden on *Botanical Latin*.

**Present:** 15 members, 3 visitors and 6 apologies as per attendance book.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the November 2018 general meeting as printed in the newsletter were accepted by the meeting.

**Business Arising:**

- Website - Robyn Grey-Gardner has been timely in uploading newsletters to the website. Although not able to attend this monthly meeting, she has forwarded a newsletter index idea to Barb. Hopefully Robyn will be able to make it to the planning meeting (24 February 2019) where it can be discussed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Balance</b> of all funds (including petty cash) end of October 2018 | \$3,393.08               |
| <b>Income</b> for November, December 2018 & January 2019               |                          |
| • Membership   | 20.00                    |
| • Payment for Christmas breakfast at Standley Chasm                    | 400.00                   |
| • Interest   | .79                      |
| <b>Expenses</b> for November, December 2018 & January 2019             |                          |
| • Website host (reimbursement to B Gilfedder)                          | 99.98                    |
| • Transfer to petty cash   | 40.00                    |
| • Standley Chasm Breakfast   | 380.00                   |
| • Reimbursement to Robyn Grey-Gardner for breakfast                    | 20.00                    |
| <b>(Petty Cash</b>   | <u>\$1.85</u>            |
| <b>Added</b>   | 60.00                    |
| <b>Expenditure</b>   | <u>20.00</u>             |
|  | \$41.85)                 |
| <b>Total</b> of all funds (including petty cash) end January 2019      | <u><b>\$3,313.89</b></u> |

The meeting accepted the Treasurer's report.

**Correspondence:**

- Robyn Grey-Gardner away until 17 February. She will upload February newsletter to website when she returns.
- Rosalie Schultz wrote a personal letter to various government bodies re concerns on condition of Running Waters which we learnt about from Jayne Brim Box. She said she received bland replies. If anyone else would like to write on the subject, Barb can supply names of whom to send to. It was decided not to send a club response at this stage. Can be discussed further at the planning meeting 24 February.
- Australian Museum and Galleries Association are having a conference in Alice Springs 13 – 17 May 2019. Early bird registration and details forwarded to ASFNC membership. They are also interested in organisations utilizing the conference week as an opportunity to network and showcase the region.
- Australian Natural History Medallion – 1. Updating contact details. 2. Calling for nominations for the medallion. No nomination suggestions received at the meeting.
- Email from Kiri Milne, Community Development Officer with Alice Springs Town Council, inviting applications for 2019 grants. Barb circulated to Committee. Lee wondered if could be used to hire lecture theatre for longer period, however Marg Friedel thinks that may not be necessary. Neil Woolcock offered to write a submission for 3 handheld UHF radios with external antenna. All in favour.
- Other relevant correspondence forwarded to membership, including the emails from Australian Naturalists Network.

**General Business:**

- CDU lecture theatre – thank you to Margaret Friedel, who has secured the lecture theatre free of charge for us for the next six months (after much negotiating). It is not available on Wednesday 8 May, but Ian Coleman has agreed to the use of Olive Pink Botanic Garden that evening, where there is a new display screen, donated by Australian Plants Society Alice Springs.

**Past Events:**

- 17 November – Herbarium visit. 7 members – very informative.
- 18 November – Breakfast at Standley Chasm enjoyed by all. 19 Members attended and several apologies.
- 23 November – Moonwalk up Spencer Hill – 9 climbers.

**Future Events:**

- Sunday 24 February 2pm – Planning Meeting – OPBG – All members welcome.
- Jessie Gap picnic tea with APS, which was postponed due to hot weather, will be rescheduled

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 13 March 2019. Speakers: Simon Ward and Robyn Delaney will take us on a 16 day walk they did in July 2017 from Finke Gorge National Park to Watarrka National Park. Scribe – Simon Brown, Supper - Wendy and Ian Mann.

**Sightings:**

Simon Brown reported that 50 bird species were caught on camera at Fish Hole on Jay Creek during the very hot weather. Barb Gilfedder reported seeing 20 Wedge-tailed Eagles between Port Augusta and Coober Pedy recently but none from Coober Pedy to Alice. Neil Woolcock reported snakes seen on his evening tours at the Desert Park. They seem to appear around nine o'clock once temperatures have dropped.

**Meeting closed** at 9:00pm.

Minutes compiled by Connie Spencer