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Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

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SEPTEMBER 2022 **VCPS Newsletter No. 15**

Drosera binata var. multifida

Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

Newsletter No. 15 **September 2022**

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MEETING TOPICS & DATES for 2022

VICTORIAN CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY

This year we have scheduled the following discussion topics, and events:

January	**(30th)**	New Year BBQ (Contact for details)
February	**(23rd)**	*Sarracenia*, *Dionaea (*VFT), beginners info
March	**(19-20th)**	**VCPS Annual show** at Collectors Corner (Postponed 2021 show).
April	**(27th)**	*Nepenthes, Heliamphora*, *Drosera* and information night.
May	**(25th)**	Growing conditions, 'Best' and 'Worst' plants, pygmy *Drosera* gemmae swap
June	**(22nd)**	AGM, plant give-away, any CPs.
July	**(27th)**	Rosetted tuberous *Drosera* judging, Propagation – seed growing, tissue culture, division and cuttings. Potting demonstration.
August	**(24th)**	Upright tuberous/Winter growing *Drosera*, displays, and companion planting.
September	**(28th)**	*Cephalotus, Brocchinia, Catopsis* and swap night.
October	**(26th)**	*Byblis,* pygmy *Drosera, Drosera binata, Drosophyllum, Genlisea, Pinguicula, Roridula, Utricularia*.
November	**(23rd)**	Any carnivorous plant, show preparation.
December	**(3-4th)**	**VCPS Annual show** at Collectors Corner.

Please note: All meetings, other than those where a specific venue is given, will be on the FOURTH WEDNESDAY of the month in the hall of the Pilgrim Uniting Church in Yarraville. Corner Bayview Road and Montague Street, Melway Map Reference 41K7.

Contents

A rare plant of *Heliamphora hispida* starting to grow it's first intermediate leaves with nectar spoons, grown by Ben Chambers. Photo: Ben Chambers

Seed Bank

We now have a huge collection of NEW fresh CP seed available, and our seed list has become quite extensive.

With over 250 varieties of CP's, we are now providing the list in PDF format on our website, www.vcps.org

For inquiries or to order seeds, please contact the VCPS Seedbank Officer.

FRONT COVER:

Drosera binata var. multifida,
Mooloolaba region, QLD.
Photos: Stephen Fretwell

BACK COVER:

Clockwise from top left:

- *Utricularia uliginosa,* Mooloolaba region, QLD.
- *Utricularia biloba,* Mooloolaba region, QLD.
- *Utricularia lateriflora,* Mooloolaba region, QLD.
- *Utricularia caerulea,* Mooloolaba region, QLD.
- *Drosera binata var. multifida,* Mooloolaba region, QLD.
- *Drosera spatulata,* Mooloolaba region, QLD.
- *Utricularia caerulea,* Mooloolaba region, QLD.
- *Drosera lunata,* Mooloolaba region, QLD. (centre)

Design: Stephen Fretwell

VCPS News

Not one but two!

Second VCPS 2022 annual show to be held on December 3rd-4th

Due to COVID in 2020 and 2021 the VCPS annual show had to be postponed from it's usual December schedule, but now it's back!

For the first time ever the VCPS will hold a second annual show in the same calendar year, to give members and the general public more of what they want.

The beginning of December has always been a preferred time of year to hold the show due to new spring foliage, flowering time, cooler condtions and the overall amount of genera and species that look better at that time of year.

The annual show will still be held at Collectors Corner, Gardenworld and the date has been set for the weekend of **December 3rd-4th.**

Entry is free for all and it's surely going to be another brilliant show full of rare and spectacular species to see and buy.

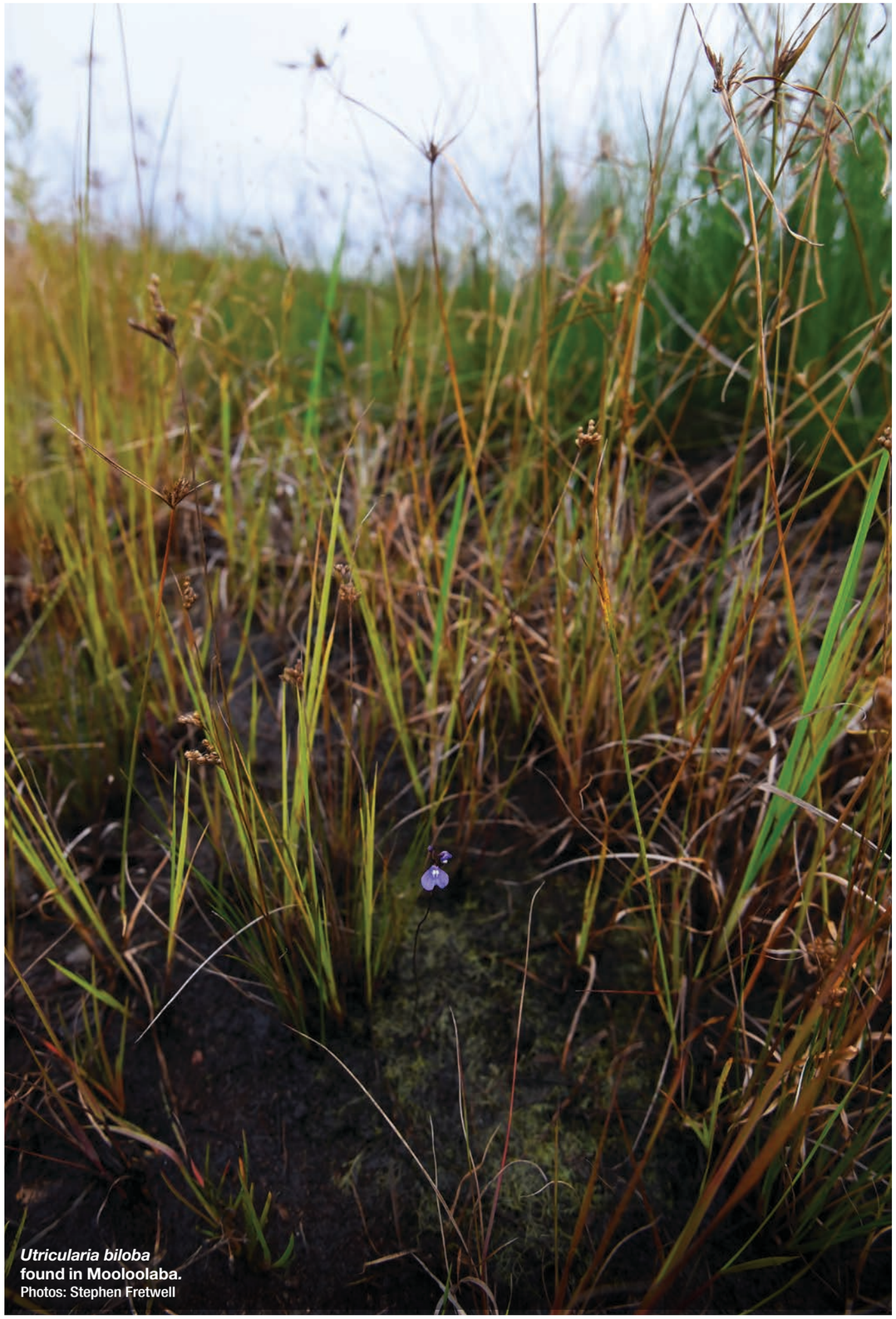
It's a great opportunity for members to meet and greet other collectors, to talk to many of the experienced members there to learn from there wizdom and to also purchase some amazing plants.

I hope to see you all there.

New Guiness World Record

Hyogo Prefectural Flower Center in Japan has recently been given authentication of the Guiness World Record for the longest pitcher of a *Nepenthes*.

The plant that produced the huge record sized pitcher was a *Nepenthes truncata* and was 55.5cm long!



Utricularia biloba **found in Mooloolaba.**
Photos: Stephen Fretwell

Some large *Drosera spatulata*'s with elongated leaves to survive being under water for a short period of time.

Field trips around the Sunshine Coast

BY STEPHEN FRETWELL

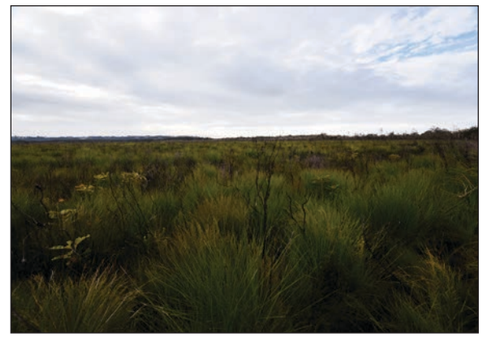
PART 1 OF 2

In July this year I was away on holiday to Noosa for the first time and while it wasn't the ideal time of year to look for CP's I thought I'd take advantage of being there and spend a couple of days checking out the native CP's anyway.

After talking to a few friends and doing so research I managed to contact a fellow CP enthusiast Peter, who lives in the Mooloolaba region, and he kindly offered to show me a couple of sites in the area where both *Drosera* and *Utricularia* grow.

The first site that we visited was in Mooloolaba where *Drosera binata var. multifida, D. lunata, D. spatulata, D. pygmaea, Utricularia caerulea, U. uliginosa, U. biloba* and *U. lateriflora* all grow.

The habitat that we visited was quite diverse with swamp and heathy areas growing in very sandy soil conditions. Once we arrived at the site we then followed a trail in from the car park past lots of large gum trees and thick vegetation which then lead to a heathy sandy area. And before we knew Peter started pointing out our first CP, the tropical tuberous *Drosera, D. lunata.*



A recently burnt out swamp in Mooloolaba.

The plants that we found were almost growing in pure sand and varied in growth size which I found surprising. Some plants were just starting to grow, others were reaching a flowering size and some were starting to go dormant. Peter then explained that at some locations it has multiple growing periods through out the year, and you can see some plants going dormant, while others are just emerging from dormancy. A strange and unique adaption to it's environment I guess.

Also growing in the sandy area but where it was slightly damper we then found our first *Utricularia,*

***Drosera spatulata* growing amongst *Utricularia biloba* leaves.**

***Drosera binata var. multifida* growing amongst the grasses.**

Drosera lunata.

U. caerluea which was in flower. This was the first time that I'd seen this species and it was one that I was targeting and hoping to find as it's a species that I have always wanted to see.

The flower scapes of *U. caerluea* ranged from 12-20cm tall with mauve flowers that are only about 1cm in size with 4 distinct white ridges on the palette with a yellow blotch on top. The flower spur is also quite long and protrudes out past the flower palette. As we kept walking along the path we spotted more *U. caerluea* flowers, most scapes had a single flower, but a couple had two on them. Peter then told me that when the plants are at their peak they can have 3 or occasional 4 open flowers at once on the top of the flower scape which makes them look very distinct and a spectacular sight to see.

After the sandy area we passed by a small creek and then came to a grassy swamp area which had been burnt out about 9 months ago. It was here Peter explained where we'd find the rest of the species and fortunately for me, he was right.

Once again the soil was sandy, but very wet and water could be seen seeping out from the swamp onto the path which was situated slightly lower. It was along these areas which were more exposed and receiving more sunlight that many of the species could be easeily seen. After only a short walk, once again we started to find more *U. caerluea* plants in flower, then some small bright red *D. spatulata*, tiny *D. pygmaea* plants still in dormancy and *U. laterifora* in flower with it's small mauve flowers. This species can also be seen in Victoria which I've seen many times so after so I took a few photos and then we moved on as Peter had just found the next species on my Wishlist and something else that I'd also never seen before in the wild, D*rosera binata var. multifida*.

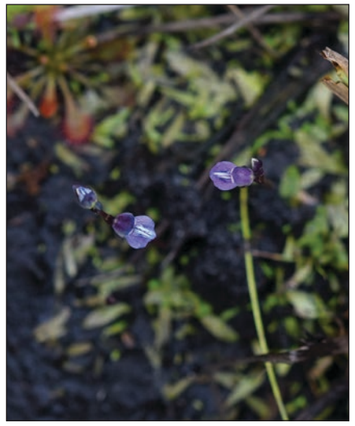
Growing in the sedge grass right next to the path, a large 10 pointed leaf of *Drosera. binata var. multifida* could be seen poking out. We examined the plant closer and we saw a couple of other older leaves on the plant, but it was clear that the plant was just emerging out of dormancy with the big leaf that we saw first.

As we walked further along the trail we found more *D. binata var. multifida* but most unfortunately only had old leaves on them and were still dormant. Peter told me that they have a short 3-4 week dormancy in winter and we were in the middle of it unfortunately.

The next species that we came across was growing in a constant seep that stays wet for most of the year. And it was her that we found *Utricularia. uliginosa* in flower too. *U. uliginosa* has large 1-1.5cm strap shaped leaves and could easily be spotted forming a mat like clump in a semi submerged area with water flowing across it. This species requires warm conditions and can only be found in NSW, QLD, NT and WA in Australia. The flowers are quite small on and only about 7mm in size, mauve in colouration with a white hump on the palette that has dark blue veins running over it. To the naked eye it doesn't look very impressive but if looked at closely and zoomed in after a photo is taken of it, its a nice and unusual flower.

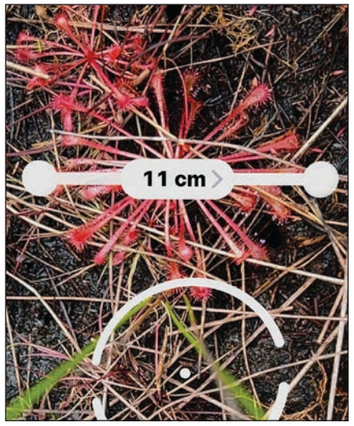
***Utricularia biloba* leaves in and out of the water.**

Utricularia biloba.



Utricularia uliginosa.

Utricularia caerulea.



A huge 11cm *Drosera spatulata*.

Further down the track we started seeing more *D. spatulata* plants and the area had become very wet and muddy with large puddles of water that we had to carefully avoid across the track. It was just past there that Peter said that we should start finding some extraordinarily large *D. spatulata* plants growing semi submerged amongst the sedges. But our efforts were distracted when Peter found the fern like leaves of *Utricularia. biloba* growing in a slightly deeper area amongst the sedges next to the path. The leaves continued for several metres with some well below the water and some above the water level lying flat on the ground where the water had evaporated from.

And it was there that we came across our first *U. biloba* flower. They may only be about 1cm in size but the colouration of the flowers are a stunning dark blue/purple and are highlighted with 2 bright white ridges which makes them something very special to see in the wild as no camera or screen ever seems to do them justice and show what the flower really looked like.

While I was still looking at the *U. biloba* Peter had continued on into the sedge swamp and yelled out to me that he'd found a large D. spatulata. And indeed it was, measuring and huge 8cm in diameter with slightly elongated leaves, a strategy that the plant does as it searches for light while be submerged and slightly resembles *D. intermedia*.

As I measure the plants and took more photos, Peter continued looking for bigger *D. spatulata* plants and in no time found several more, each bigger than the last with the largest measuring an astonishing 11cm in diameter!

After looking around the area for a bit longer we then decided to head back and go visit another site. But as we were heading back and I was thinking that it couldn't get any better than this, we found a few more *U. caerulea* plants in flower and one scape was a triple header which indeed did look spectacular.

After a short drive we arrived at the next site where the there's a unique pale flowered form of *U. caerulea* and some *D. spatulata* plants that grow on embankments right next to a river. Unfortunately time was slipping away from us quickly as it was now 4pm in the afternoon and the light was starting to fade due to some cloud cover that had rolled in.

After walking along a few trails at the 2nd site we soon came across some typical *U. caerulea* with mauve flowers growing in a very sandy soil that was damp but not wet and not a spot where you'd expect to find them. Further down the path Peter then found the unique pale flowered form of *U. caerulea* to my delight.

At first glance this flower looks all white, but when you observe it closer it has a pale mauve colouration on the front of the palette and spur and the yellow hump

Drosera spatulata **growing next to a river.**

Drosera spatulata **growing on a embankment by the water.**

Utricularia caerulea.

Utricularia caerulea **(White/pale form).**

Utricularia lateriflora.

Drosera lunata.

Drosera pygmaea.

Drosera spatulata.

at the top of the flower but no colouration in or around the ridges. The pale flowered form of *U. caerulea* was quite spare along the trail but there was still enough of them to see that it's a distinct variation that isn't an anthocyanin free form.

Strangely at this location I couldn't see any leaves of *U. caerulea* at the base of the flower scape on either colour forms which is a bit odd as it's supposed to be a perennial species. Perhaps at this location it dried out too much and regrows from seed every year like an annual.

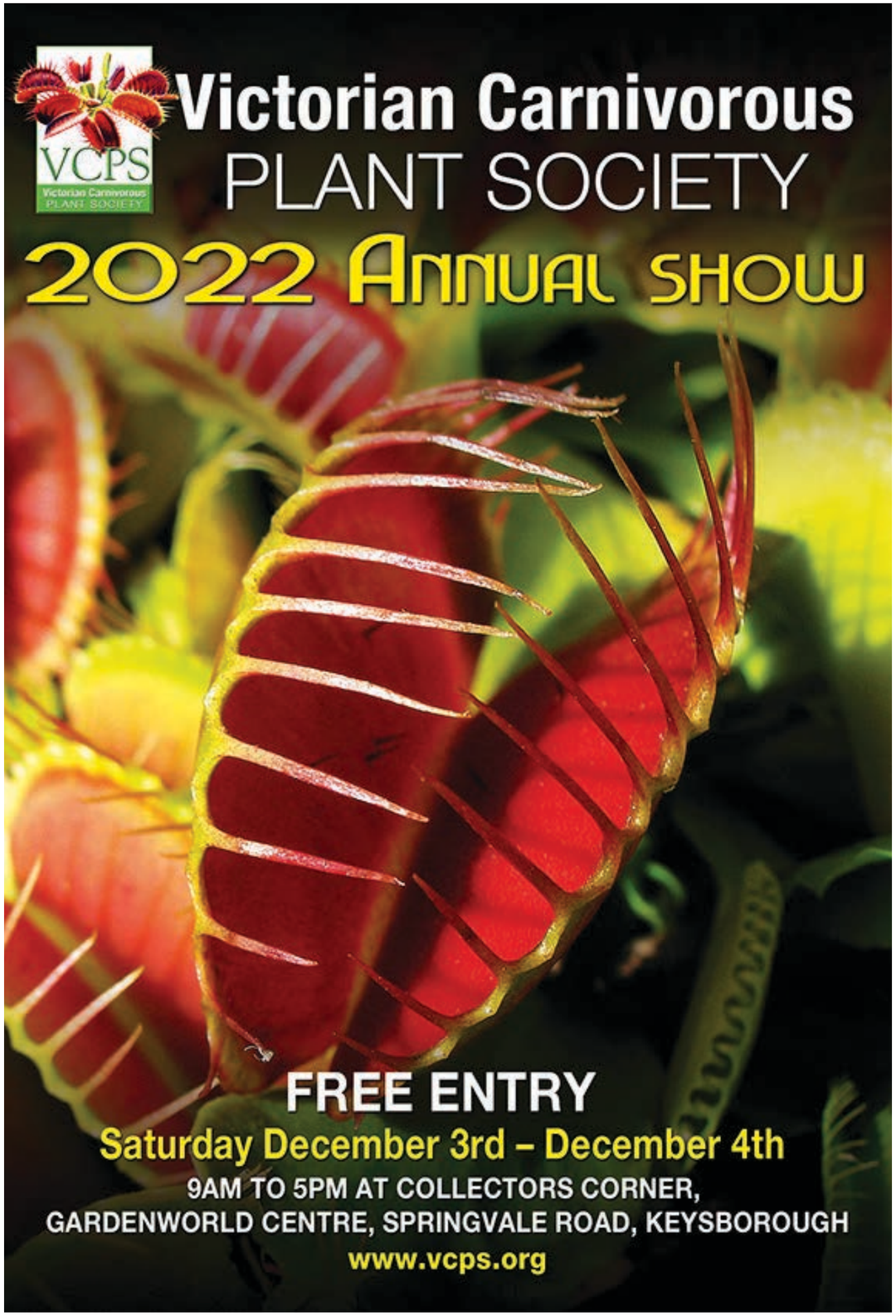
Also growing in the same area we found quite a few *U. lateriflora* plants and flowers, the typical sized red *D. spatulata*'s that were around 3cm in size and some *D. pygmaea* plants which mostly looked pretty scruffy as they're still dormant apart from one nice specimen that I found which had started growing again.

Also growing amongst them was the tuberous sundew *D. lunat*a but again these plants looked like they were passed their prime and heading towards dormancy.

After photographing all the differents species Peter then took me to another unique spot where you can see *D. spatulata* plants growing on wet embankments right next to a big river that flows out to the ocean. Again the plants were typical in size, but they looked amazing in their habitat with the water flowing right beside them, unfortunately the photos just don't do them justice.

It was now getting late in the day and the sun was starting to set, so after a fantastic day seeing lots of spectacular plants I thanked Peter for taking me to 2 excellent loctions to show me the local Cp's, for his time and also for his knowlege.

TO BE CONTINUED



Beryl, one of the societies committee members maning the VCPS display at the Expo.

National Entomology Insect Expo

BY PETER BLOEM

At first I thought it a little strange that the VCPS would be invited to have a stall at the Woodend Insect Expo, to be held 1-3 July 2022. That I have plants that eat insects while other stall holders are breeding insects? I sent an email to VCPS members to see of their interest and reaction. Time was running out and under pressure I accepted the invitation. I only had one other volunteer, Beryl, to help me out for the three day event.

The Central Victorian Regional Insect Collection (CVRIC) started up in 1970 with biology students from the La Trobe University in Bendigo. It was part of the environmental assessment projects for central Victoria and over time some 20,000 specimens had been collected, many undescribed in science. It is the largest collection of specimens of Victorian invertebrates.

I can remember taking my family into the Insectivarium in Woodend some 25 years ago. It was an old corrugated iron building near the railway station housing many pinned insects, a live ant's nest, some stick insects and many live spiders.

A few years ago developers bought the land and planed to bulldoze the building and discard of the insect collection. Fortunately some interested volunteers stepped in and rehoused the collection at another location in Woodend. They're in the process of digitizing and cataloguing all the specimens in the hope of better understanding and conservation of insect fauna. In the future it may become a tool and documents for the effects of climate change on the surrounding insect habitat and populations.

Local Federal Member Rob Mitchell MP officially opened the Expo on Friday morning.

The Expo was well set up inside the Woodend Sports Stadium with over 30 exhibitors from around Victoria and other states. There were a diverse array of exhibitor's including insect artists, live and preserved insects, of bees, butterflies, spiders and scorpions, ants and stick insects. A couple of landcare groups, Melbourne university biology students and other Entomological Societies. Many put on demonstrations during the day.

Also the CVRIC had put on a large display of pinned insects from their collection.

Beryl and I managed to find enough plants to put together a great display. We had grouped a number of CP's that grow locally in Victoria, some from W.A. and another group form overseas. I also brought some plants to sell, not knowing how it will all go.

We had an overwhelming response from the other exhibitor's and the general public. Everyone were fascinated with the variety of CP's on display, of the many shapes and sizes and trapping mechanisms they have. We gave out 60 VCPS information pamphletes that ran out on the second day and printed another 30 more for the third day.

The tray of plants I had for sale were sold out by midday! I struggled to find more plants to sell over the following 2 days as the Sarra's, fly traps and Pings were all dormant and not looking their best. We even sold all the VCPS mugs!

The crowd numbers were excellent considering the temperature barely got above 10 degrees inside the stadium and even colder outside where the food vans were parked!

Another Insect Expo is planned for in 18 months during the warmer months of the year. Which should benefit the live insects as they struggled to cope with the cold conditions over the weekend. All had to be stored in a heated room overnight and on occasion during the day.

I was pleased with how the Insect Expo went and will be keen to attend the next event.

For more information visti: cvric.com.au

To help add atmosphere, lots of people were dressed up.

An amazing butterfly costume at the Expo.

A large Funnel Web spider *(Atrax robustus)*.

The VCPS display stand.

PLANT OF THE NIGHT: *Rosetted tuberous Drosera* – 1st place: *Drosera macrophylla*

PLANT OF THE NIGHT: *Rosetted tuberous Drosera*
2nd place: *Drosera aberrans* (Kynton, VIC)

PLANT OF THE NIGHT: *Rosetted tuberous Drosera*
3rd place: *Drosera lowriei*

July 27th VCPS meeting

ROSETTED TUBEROUS *DROSERA* JUDGING & PROPAGATION

Show judging for rosetted tuberous *Drosera* was held at the July meeting. Steve won first place for his pot of *Drosera macrophylla* which was flowering very well. 2nd place went to Peter's large pot of *Drosera aberrans*. This pot originated from a single plant from the Kynton area and has since multiplied to fill several large pots in Peter's collection. Thrid place went to Steve's *Drosera lowriei*. This was the giant from of the species.

The species benched at the July meeting included:

Nepenthes maxima
Dionaea muscipula
Sarracenia leucophylla
Drosera whittakeri
Drosera macrophylla
Dresera squamosa
Drosera aberrans
Drosera praefolia
Drosera browniana
Drosera lowriei
Drosera macrantha
Drosera coccicaulis
Drosera graomogolensis
Drosera hamiltonii
Drosera stolonifera
Drosera slackii
Pinguicula gigantea
Utricularia conigera x nelumbifolia

PLANT OF THE NIGHT
UPRIGHT TUBEROUS DROSERA:
1st place: *Drosera gigantea* "Red form"

PLANT OF THE NIGHT
UPRIGHT TUBEROUS DROSERA:
2nd place: *Drosera macrantha*

PLANT OF THE NIGHT
UPRIGHT TUBEROUS DROSERA:
3rd place: *Drosera cistiflora*

Utricularia blanchetii

Pinguicula emarginata x "Weser"

Darlingtonia californica

August 24th VCPS meeting

UPRIGHT TUBEROUS/WINTER GROWING *DROSERA* JUDGING

The show judging for the upright tuberous and other winter growing *Drosera* was held at the August meeting. This judging category covers a very diverse group of native sundews including those with erect, self-supporting stems, those with a climbing or scrambling habit as well as the fan-leaved sundews as well as several species of summer-dormant African *Drosera* that die back to fleshy roots to survive the dry summer conditions.

First place was awarded to Steve's *Drosera gigantea* "Red Form". While we notmally think of this gigantea as one of the biggest *Drosera* species, this plant was a small form of the species that produces red tinted stems and leaves.

Second place was awarded to Peter's *Drosera macrantha*. The stem of this species often grows to well over 1m tall so long stakes to support the plant.

3rd place went to Steve's *Drosera cistiflora* from Stellenbosch, South Africa.

The non-topic plant of the night went to Steve's mauve flowered form of *Utricularia blanchetii*. This is a Brazilian species from central Bahia state. Steve said it always flowers in spring but this year it has flowered very early.

The species benched at the August meeting included:

Darlingtonia californica
Drosera cistiflora
Drosera gigantea
Drosera graniticola
Drosera indumenta
Drosera macrantha
Drosera ramellosa
Pinguicula emarginata x "Weser"
Sarracenia psittacina
var okefenokensis f luteoviridens:
Utricularia blanchetii:

PLANT OF THE NIGHT: *Cephalotus follicularis* – 1st place

September 28th VCPS meeting

CEPHALOTUS, BROCCHINIA AND *CATOPSIS*

The topic plants for the September meeting were *Cephalotus, Catopsis* and *Brocchinia. Cephalotus* and the carnivorous bromeliads were voted on separatey for topic plant of the night.

Several Cephalotus were brought into the meeting. *Cephalotus* have a reputation of being finicky to grow. Several well grown plants were brought in that were being grown under different conditions.

Cephalotus of the night went to Andrew's plant, which he originally got from triffid Park around 10 years ago. He was growing it indoors in a terrerium howoever he moved it out into his greenhouse this year to give it a cold dormancy.

Equal 2nd went to Peter's plant, which had one pitcher but was producing lots of non-carnivorus leaves, and David's Cephalotus seedling. This was one of two 18 month old seedlings, one of which had red traps and the other green traps. David puts these differences down to environmental conditions.

Catopsis berteroniana is a subcarnivorous bromeliad. Andrew brought in some seedlings that were sown around 3 years ago and are now about 2" tall. This species seems quite slow to grow from seed which is surprising considering pups from mature plants will flower and produce new pups in about a year.

One of Andrew's seedling was voted bromeliad of the night with 2nd place going to Steve's Catopsis, a large plant with several growing points, and 3rd place awarded to David's Catopsis.

Another of David's plants a *Nepenthes sibuyanensis* was voted non-topic plant of the night. This species grows naturally at about 1400m-1600m above sea level. David said it can be hard to pitcher well and the pitchers usually only form when the tendrils touch the substrate.

PLANT OF THE NIGHT: *CATOPSIS/BROCCHINIA*
1st place: ***Catopsis berteroniana***

The species benched at the September meeting included:

Brocchina reducta
Catopsis berteroniana
Cephalotus follicularis
Drosera binata
Drosera geniculata
Drosera gigantea
Drosera gunniana
Drosera spatulata
Nepenthes sibuyanensis

Victorian Carnivorous PLANT SOCIETY INC.

Annual Subscriptions

Australian mail & electronic membership $30.00
Overseas mail & electronic membership $30.00
Electronic membership $18.00

All cheques or money orders should be made payable to the Victorian Carnivorous Plant Society Inc (VCPS). Payment can be made by Cheque, Money Orders, Direct deposit and Paypal. Payment from overseas must be in Australian dollars. (Payment by Credit card is also available for international members only.) Please visit vcps.org for further details

Correspondence

Please forward all correspondence regarding subscription, change of address, articles for the journal and back issues to:

The Secretary VCPS
1 Pollard Place,
Sunbury, Victoria 3429.
AUSTRALIA

Journal articles, in MS-Word, ready for publication, may be Emailed to the Editor or Secretary.

Meetings

Most VCPS meetings are held in the hall at the rear of the Pilgrim Uniting Church on the corner of Bayview Road and Montague Street, Yarraville – Melway map reference 41K7. These meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 8 PM.

However, some meetings may be at the home of members during a weekend. Details of meeting dates and topics are listed in each journal.

If unsure of the location or date of any meeting, please ring a committee person for details.

The VCPS Annual General Meeting, usually held at Yarraville in June, provides substantial benefits for each and every member able to attend.

Utricularia uliginosa

Utricularia biloba

Utricularia lateriflora

Utricularia caerulea

Drosera lunata

Utricularia caerulea

Drosera spatulata

Drosera binata var. multifida