

## Editor's Note



*As I look out onto my garden, bursting with blossom, I am reminded of that ditty: Spring has sprung, the grass is ris, I wonder where the birdie is? Well, if the newspapers are to be believed, there's no question of the whereabouts of the birdies – they are being watched closely for evidence of the Asian bird flu. As a homeopath, will you be prepared if the promised pandemic comes to pass? What are the symptoms of the bird flu and what remedies are best indicated to treat it? Well, you're in luck because at our next senior seminar, college Principal Jeannette Bennett is running a workshop on how to treat the bird flu. The full seminar programme is detailed on the next page.*

*Also in this issue, Derek Briggs, founder of the ACCH and, to use his own words, retired homeopathic dinosaur, provides us with a stimulating article on vaccinations. Julia Schiller continues her informative series on plant families, this time studying the Mighty Myrtaceae.*

*I hope you enjoy the newsletter. Have a happy and prosperous couple of months.*

**Kathy**

## VIEWPOINT: VACCINATIONS

It's probably 40-45 years ago that the late Mr Groves, then Auckland's only professional homeopath, first introduced me to the subject of vaccinations. His material, dating back to 1938 and including reports of American soldiers who were compulsorily vaccinated and dropped dead very shortly after, was impressive enough to shock me into an anti-vaccination stance which I maintain to this day.

In the early days of my practice, I made a point of starting off any child's, and many adults', treatment by giving a high potency of DPTT (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus and Typhoid nosodes ) where I could trace the onset of the child's malaise back to these injections. The Plunket records were invaluable in determining this, detailing the child's loss of weight and failure to thrive from the very week following the injections. At one stage, I had about 20 videos of such cases. (Of course, the vaccination scenario is a lot more complex these days. I expect that to follow this routine now, we would have to apply the vaccine nosodes in reverse order of injection).

As a routine method of removing the toxins causing the malaise, this was about 80% successful. This technique can be used to treat any immediate toxicity or poisoning, and I have used it successfully for this on many occasions.

The other much favoured routine for combating vaccination side-effects is a dose of Thuja. It should be noted that Murphy, in his toxicity chapter, gives about


forty remedies for this purpose. So, a degree of individualization should be considered here.

One of the saddest cases I encountered was of a lady suffering from grief at the loss of her 13-year-old son who had recently died, coincidentally shortly after a vaccination for Tuberculosis. I mentioned this connection to her but she clearly didn't believe me. The following year, she returned, grieving for the loss of her second son who had just died - yes you've guessed it - shortly after a Tuberculosis vaccination. Of course very few vaccination reactions actually result in death - a fraction of 1% - although the statistic is enhanced by the medical profession not considering any post-vaccination illness as a reaction unless it occurs within 24 hours of the actual vaccination. This is a very helpful technique for keeping the statistical percentage low.

As regards the 24 hour limit, surely we all recall the very recent vaccination programme of meningococcal vaccine, and the influenza epidemic which followed about a week later. Pure coincidence of course !!! There are many other examples. Vitoukas noted the epidemic of Guillain-Barre disease that occurred shortly after a vaccination campaign against Swine fever.

While a vaccination will protect against the specific disease it is aimed at some of the time, in many cases it totally disrupts the patient's vital force rendering him vulnerable to any malaise lurking in his constitution. In my experience, a large number of children developed asthma after receiving the DPT vaccine. Strangely we now have a national epidemic of asthma.

So, when we encounter a patient who has had the full run of vaccinations up to adulthood and hasn't thrived, we can fairly accurately prognose the dismal future ahead of him.



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**Derek Briggs RHD**  
(Retired Homeopathic  
Dinosaur)

## The Mighty Myrtaceae Family

By Julia Schiller



The Myrtaceae family consists of woody shrubs and trees which bear essential oils and, occasionally, edible fruit or spices. The family contains about 3000 species in all and they are especially concentrated in Australasia and the tropical Americas, areas that were neighbouring Gondwana. There are merely nineteen myrtle species in New Zealand, but several are well-beloved landscape and garden plants such as rata, pohutukawa, kanuka and manuka.

The pohutukawa exemplifies the family's prominent, brightly-coloured stamens, which are the part we're actually admiring when looking at pohutukawa flowers.

Other well-known Myrtaceae include tea trees, paperbarks, bottlebrush, guava, feijoa, cloves, allspice, and the common myrtle. Myrtaceae also encompasses the nearly 600 species of eucalyptus which dominate the tree flora of Australia. No other continent is so characterised by a single genus of tree.

There are few myrtle species in our materia medica and very little modern information on them. The materia medica of Eucalyptus globulus, Eugenia jambos and Cajuputum is nonetheless detailed enough to yield several commonalities: an affinity with the mucous membranes; diarrhea; an intoxicated feeling; and symptoms that worsen at night.

The first two remedies have great thirst, in fact, Clarke calls Eucalyptus' thirst "tormenting". Could this have something to do with the legendary flammability of the tree? Eucalyptus is best known as a flu remedy with periodic symptoms.

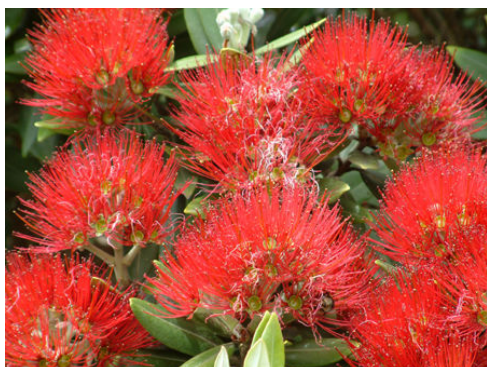
Eugenia has been successfully prescribed in acne and in diabetes; has an affinity with the eyes and vision; is temporarily better for urination; and desires smoking. Cajuputum has an unusual keynote: a feeling that a body part like the nose or whole head is swollen or enlarged.

Angophora lanceolata, the red gum tree, can also have diarrhea, though it is preceded by constipation and a constant bearing down sensation in the rectum.

Myrtus communis and Pimenta officinalis seemed the most unlike the other remedies. Myrtus is known for respiratory complaints and has a particular affinity for the upper left lung; symptoms are worse in the morning and better in the evening. A proving of Pimenta (allspice) tincture produced one-sided neuralgia, increased hunger and a disturbed sense of heat and cold.

Syzygium jambolanum is also a member of this family, but Vermeulen writes that it is "probably the same as Eugenia jambos." (*Synoptic*, p. 386).

In 2002, with the publication of the *Rainbow Essences of Aotearoa*, Robert and Michelle van der Touw introduced Pohutukawa, which they call Tree of Life, and Rata, Heart Vine, into the materia medica. Both were found to have themes to do with strength.



Pohutukawa is said to lend strength and endurance in times of change and Rata lends invincibility, resilience and flexibility to those dealing with obstacles and external pressures. Of the other Myrtaceae I studied, I found the theme of increased strength in Eucalyptus too, so it is possible that further provings will confirm this as a familial trait.

### References:

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Vermeulen, Frans, *Concordant Materia Medica*, Emryss Publishers, Haarlem: 2000; *Synoptic Materia Medica 2*, Emryss Publishers, Haarlem: 2003.  
Wikipedia.org, the on-line free encyclopedia.

**Julia, a graduate of ACCH, has a practice in Auckland, Glendowie Homeopathy; phone (09) 585 2285.**

## Arsenicum Album

*Fear not your death  
It is not now coming  
But taking that ill  
Will make you a mummy.*

*Fear not the knives,  
The pins or the points.  
You have no disease  
In muscles or joints.*

*The ghosts will not get you  
Nor the germs nor the thieves.  
Friends have not deserted  
There's no impending disease.*

*You will not be stabbed  
Or hung in the trees.  
The police are not coming  
There's nothing to see.*

*So, clean up your house  
And put right your wrongs.  
Your death is not coming  
You need a new song.*

Thanks to Tracey Selwyn, a first year student, for this poem. Tracey wrote the poem during a materia medica lesson on Arsenicum, capturing the spirit of the remedy beautifully.

## SEMINAR NEWS

The next senior seminar days will be:

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November.**

On Saturday morning, Jeannette Bennett will workshop two cases from the same family, but different miasms, incorporating Sankaran's theories into the workshop. In the afternoon, Julia Schiller will present a review of the recent Grant Bentley seminar, detailing how Bentley uses facial analysis to pinpoint the remedy.

On Sunday, Julia is running the morning session. She will be analyzing the life of Nash, the mathematician portrayed by Russell Crowe in *A Beautiful Mind*, from a homeopathic perspective. Jeannette's afternoon session will be a brainstorming session designed to equip homeopaths with the tools for treating the bird flu.

Both days run from **9am to 4pm**. The Saturday seminar is specifically targeted at post-graduate level, although both days will be of value to grads and students alike.

To register in advance, please contact our office administrator, Marianna.