



Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 307 – May 2015

PLANT SALE REPORT

The weather was fine and sunny on Saturday for the start of our 2015 Plant Sale. The crowds came in early and continued steadily throughout the day. We had great support from our growers with **Vaughan's Native Plants, Mahoney's, Suntuff Natives, Otway Greening, Special Effects Nursery, Tree Action, Chris Fletcher and Russell Waite** doing a steady trade all day. Our own plant table did a good business, and thanks to Roger, Matt and Frank, in particular, contributed strongly to our bottom line.



The BBQ and canteen did a roaring business on both days and the gate takings were very steady. The Saturday night BBQ was a bit quieter than previous years - (perhaps we are getting older ?) – but still a good night was had by all.

We were pleased to have a couple of other stall holders this year. Matt Baars was show-casing his wonderful woodturned works of art, and Penny Foster had some beautifully embroidered aprons, featuring Australian native plants. We hope to make such stalls a big part of our plant sales in future.

A big thank you to all who worked so hard the preparations for the sale, to all those who

volunteered over the weekend, and especially to Arthur and Linda, for once again making their garden available to us so readily. As a result of everyone's hard work, we raised a healthy amount, and preparations are already underway for our next sale, on April 9th & 10th, 2016.

APRIL MEETING

Part 2 of Roger Wileman's recent trip to Western Australia was a photographic feast of unusual and interesting plants, amazing rock formations and amusing stories. He began this part of the trip at Monty's Pass north of Westonia where some interesting rock formations and an ancient well took his attention. At the Pergandes Homestead near Bencubbin, there were some very interesting sheepyards, made from exfoliated rock slabs from the nearby hills.



Pergandes Homestead Sheepyards

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Plants in this area that took his fancy included *Eucalyptus loxophleba* ssp. *lissophloia*, *Grevillea sarissa* and *Pityrodia terminalis*.

Near Mt. Magnet is another interesting rock formation known as Waterfall Rock and Roger spent some time exploring the area.



And it was near here where he found an extraordinary display of *Ptilotus* along a roadside. A shallow depression beside the road gathered a little more rainwater than the surrounding countryside, and the *Ptilotus* took full advantage.



Further north, at Yalgoo, is a tunnel through the rock called 'Joker's Tunnel'. Apparently a less than honest entrepreneur had convinced an assortment of wealthy Englishmen to invest in a gold mine in the area. There is no gold in that part of the country but the tunnel was dug so that evidence of 'progress' could be shown to the investors, who continued to contribute for some time.

Further west, at Mullewa, is an amazing church built from local stone by Father John Hawes. Father John preached for some years from a pulpit carved from rock on the Mt. Magnet road.

Roger travelled further west and struck the coast at Geraldton. Just south of here is the township of

Greenough, where the prevailing winds have sculpted some Redgums, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, into truly amazing shapes.



The Greenough tree

Some spirited discussion followed regarding the providence and naming history of *E. camaldulensis* (See article by Tony Cavanagh, Page 4)

There followed a succession of Roger's wonderful photos – about 100 in all – unfortunately space does not permit me to show more than one or two of the more interesting and beautiful ones here.



Dryandra carlinoides



Darwinia grandiflora



The magnificent foliage of *Hakea victoria*

Once again we thank Roger for a most informative, entertaining and visually splendid talk. (See Page 8 for more of Roger's amazing photos.)

PLANT TABLE

with Frank Scheelings

The table featured a good number of a variety of genera this month.

Eremophila laanii is a hardy shrub with pink flowers, which also comes in a white colour form. The hybrid of *E.longifolia* x *E.bignoniiflora* is a very large plant with deep purple flowers. It responds well to pruning which is good, or it can get out of hand.

Hakeas featured prominently, and *Hakea verrucosa* caused some discussion. Masses of pink, red and white flowers among the very prickly leaves, give way to warty fruits which give the plant its common name – Warty-fruited Hakea. *H. clavata* is another very spiky plant with heavily perfumed white and pink flowers. *H. dupracea* is also heavily scented, with rounded white flowers and sharp, needle-like leaves.

The Banksias were well represented as may be expected at this time of year. *Banksia incana* is a small shrub with tiny, rounded gold and orange flower spikes. *B. ornata* is another small shrub with

beautifully presented, terminal, rounded flower spikes in deep yellow with purple tips. The hybrid *B.robur* x *B. asplenifolia* is a large shrub, 3m x 3m, with deep golden flower spikes. *B. spinulosa* is a medium shrub to 2m, native to south eastern Australia with tall, golden flower spikes with maroon tips.



***Banksia ornata* – Desert Banksia**

There were many Correas – true species and hybrids – some with name like 'can't remember' and 'you know, that pink one'. There were two *C. alba*, one creamy white the other with pink highlights. Both are prostrate shrubs which do well in shade. *C. 'Marion's Marvel'* is a cross between *C. reflexa* and *C. backhouseana*. It came from a garden in South Australia and is a large shrub - 2m x 3m – with large, showy pink and yellow flowers. *Correa schlechtendalii* (try saying that with a couple of glasses inside you) is a low, coastal plant with greenish yellow flowers. *C. 'Federation Belle'* is a small shrub with fat, rose pink and yellow flowers. *Correa 'Redex'* is another small shrub, thought to be a hybrid of *C. reflexa* and *C. decumbens*, although both foliage and flowers are quite different to either.



***Thryptomene saxicola* – Photo Roy Skabo**

Thryptomenes are a purely Australian genus from south western WA. There were several on the table,

and all are delightful plants. *T. saxicola* is a shrub of 1.5m x 1.5m, with masses of tiny pink flowers, *T. baeckeacea* a small shrub or prostrate plant with deep pink/purple blooms and *T. strongylophylla* is a small or prostrate shrub with deep purple flowers.

A scaveola of unknown species from Phil and Denise's garden is a dense mound forming shrub with the deep purple flowers presented on upright stems. It has proven to be a good cut-flower.



Grahm brought along a tiny pea-flower, *Cullen microcephalum*, (formerly *Psoralea ascendens*) which is listed as rare or endangered in Tasmania and Victoria, and extinct in South Australia. A tiny plant, it could easily go un-noticed in its grassland home.

Phebalium nottii is a beautiful little plant with pink star flowers. Most *Phebaliums* are various shades of yellow so this one is a stand-out, although not easy to grow.

Margaret Guenzel, who always has unusual, interesting or difficult to grow plants, brought along a tiny *Ptilotus*. This one is a small compact form with tiny, 20mm, fluffy, ball-shaped flowers.

PLANT OF THE MONTH *Eremophila alternifolia*

The raffle this month was won by Dianne Royce, who chose *Eremophila alternifolia*, brought along by Frank Scheelings. Frank writes ...

Eremophila alternifolia is an erect shrub from the dryer areas of southern WA through to SA. In my garden it is kept to about 1.5 meters by regular pruning as it tends to get spindly and woody if left. The leaves are greyish and quite narrow, 2 mm wide and 5 cm in length, and contrast beautifully with the pink to carmine coloured flowers which have spots in the throat. Flowers are about 3 cm long and have the typical *Eremophila* tubular shape with the lower petal

reflexed downwards at the tip. The flower has a deeper magenta corolla of bracts at the base, and these bracts persist after the flowers fall, providing continuing colour for longer. I have found the plant to be very hardy, prefers full sun and a well-aired situation. It is very similar to the closely related *E. oppositifolia* in both habit and management. White flowered forms also occur and as with all *Eremophilas* are very bird attracting.



THE RIVER REDGUM, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* The origin of its name by Tony Cavanagh

In his very interesting talk at the April meeting, Roger showed a fascinating picture of a river redgum near Greenough, south of Eneabba in WA, which for much of its length was literally lying on the ground. This was apparently due to the very strong prevailing winds in the area. It also led to an animated discussion about how the plant received its name and some controversy as to whether a modern type specimen had been selected. The following is my attempt to sift out what is going on, very much abbreviated and simplified but hopefully of interest. Much of the information on the early history comes from the intriguing book *Emigrant Eucalypts Gum trees as exotics* by Melbourne gynaecologist Robert Zacharin, a great read if you want to know how our gum trees got to so many countries around the world.

Australian plant specimens were collected as early as 1696 and specimens were taken back to Europe as early as 1701 when the former pirate William Dampier returned after voyaging around the north-west coast of Western Australia. Twenty four of his specimens can still be seen in the Herbarium Library of Oxford University, including the easily recognizable Sturt's Desert Pea. The first *Eucalyptus* to be named (although not the first to be collected), was the Tasmania *E. obliqua*, collected on Bruny Island by the gardener David Nelson on Cook's third voyage in 1777, and named in 1789 by the French botanist

L'Heritier who was then working in England. This is the "type" or original specimen for the genus *Eucalyptus*. In the following years, many other species were named and plants were grown in European gardens and large estates, especially in Great Britain and France.

The story now shifts to Italy where Zacharin states that eucalypts were being grown in a park near Florence as early as 1818, the most likely source of the plants being France. There was also the huge Camalduli Gardens, owned by the Count of Camalduli on his large farm in the hills above Naples. The head gardener was Frederick Dehnhardt who in 1832 published a catalogue of the garden's plants in which three Eucalypts were named – "gigantea", "ambigua" and "camaldulensis". Dehnhardt stated that they had been received unnamed from France and these were his names. The Victorian botanist Ferdinand Mueller later asked him for specimens and was able to name them as *E. globulus*, *E. amygdalina* and *E. rostrata*, but as Dehnhardt's name *camaldulensis* had been applied earlier than the name "rostrata", it has priority and is the current scientific name. So that is how that most iconic of Australian trees, the river redgum, bears the name of an Italian garden!



Huge river redgum at Hattah-Kulkyne NP

One problem with many Eucalypts is that they readily hybridise but such hybrids are not necessarily recognized at the time and this has led to a flood of new "species". Also, because no specimen of the original tree survived, there were doubts concerning the identity of the type of this species. The redgum group was botanically revised in 2009 and the type is given as "South Australia, Currency Creek crossing on Strathalbyn to Goolwa road, 14 Feb. 2008, D. Nicolle 5156", so Roger was indeed right and us other argumentative people were wrong. This is called a "conserved type", and is used as a "replacement" when no other type specimen exists. It seems to apply when there is confusion or argument about the correct name for a species and the name *camaldulensis* was also conserved against other

possible names.

You will also be delighted to know that there are now 9 sub species of the redgum, just to make things even more confusing! One thing which confuses me is why a South Australian form was chosen for the new type, when it is almost certain that the seed from which the original plants were grown originated in south eastern Australia. Perhaps someone will tell me some day.

And on a lighter note

We recently attended the Bonsai Exhibition of Australian Native Plants held in Melbourne. There were 49 displays and certain plant groups were over represented such as tea trees, bottle brushes and Melaleucas. One specimen which intrigued us was a bonsai specimen of, yes you've guessed it, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, the whole 40 cm of it after 12 years as a bonsai. Yet we all know the redgum as a large tree and just to remind us, the second picture is of what is probably the largest redgum in the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park near Mildura. It would probably need about 8 to 10 people with arms outstretched to completely encircle it.



12 year-old *E. camaldulensis* Bonsai

ANGOPHORA COSTATA

BY Roger Wilema

Angophora costata has quite a few common names: Smooth barked apple gum, Sydney red gum and Rusty gum to name a few. It is a medium sized tree 15 to 25 in height and is endemic to the east coast of Australia.

It's found from Sydney to Newcastle and inland to Bathurst, then a gap to near Brisbane and west of the dividing range to near Roma, with an isolated occurrence on Moreton Island.

There are ten recognised Angophora species with *A. costata* being the only smooth barked species. All have white flowers. *A. costata* flowers in Geelong about Christmas time with a wonderful display of large bunches of white flowers.

At this time of the year the bark is shed in patches of colour from pink to grey, mauve and orange, eventually weathering to grey. It is a very desirable tree, if you have an area big enough for it to grow.

Angophoras are closely related to Eucalyptus but are readily identified as they have opposite pairs of leaves, where Euc's have alternative leaves. The woody fruits are usually shed when mature, however Eucalyptus fruits can remain on the tree for many years. One downfall of this beautiful tree is its propensity to drop branches without warning, earning it the name of "Widow Maker".



Angophoras are easily grown from seed and will grow in a wide range of soil and conditions, but will not tolerate boggy ground. There is a wonderful plantation in the median strip from the Norlane Hotel to Beckley Park.

Now I will get to the reason for the article. When travelling around Geelong I am constantly amazed by the way the trees in the nature strips are "pruned" to avoid the overhead power lines. I am sure we have all witnessed a disaster somewhere around Geelong where the trees look terrible and would be better off being removed and a smaller one planted. Another brilliant idea would be to look up the size of the tree before planting. Wouldn't that be so easy!



The photos I have included are of *A. costata* in Sydney Parade near Geelong hospital and the other is in Charlotte St Newcomb both of them looking like giant Bonsai plants

PINK BINDWEED

by Sheila Wileman

Roger and I were driving home from the Grampians near Maroona which is between Moyston and Skipton. I spotted a blur of pink as Roger was driving in his usual fast style. I said "Did you see that?" Roger turned the truck around and drove back and there were beautiful pink flowers along the side of the road. *Convolvulus erubescens* (pink Bindweed) was growing, or surviving, in a small strip of vegetation between the fence and the edge of the road. It was in full flower on 15/12/14 and was making a lovely show. It is a very small plant and would most likely be missed when not out in flower, the foliage is greyish in colour and very fine. All the plants had pink flowers except one that had lighter almost white flowers. It is a fairly common plant in the grassland areas of N.S.W, Victoria, Tasmania, and South Australia.

Now this is Roger's bit:

Convolvulus erubescens has been split into eleven new species. In the strict sense, *C. erubescens* is now only found in wetter eucalypt forests and rain forest margins in coastal areas from Sydney to north of Rockhampton. The one photographed is one of the eleven species of *Convolvulus* and I'm not sure which one it is, but is a lovely plant anyway.



AUSTRALIAN OPEN GARDEN SCHEME **10th May**
Cruden Farm, Cranhaven Rd, Langwarrin. Charge is \$15. See the famous avenue of lemon scented gums.

WIDER GEELONG FLORA LECTURE **June 9th**



Hosted by the Geelong Field Naturalists Club, the lecture will be in the Geelong Botanic Gardens, in the Friends Room, on Tuesday 9th June, at 7.30

pm. Entrance is at the intersection of Holt Road and a Eastern Park Circuit in Eastern Park. (Melways 452 G4). The guest speaker is Mr Neville Walsh who is the Senior Conservation Botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne. His topic will be "Why Plant Names Change". Moving the goalposts - plant nomenclature in a molecular age. There is no cost to attend the lecture (and if you get there early you may score a free cuppa).

OUR NEXT MEETING **May 19th**

The May meeting will be addressed by a few of our members as a result of an observation by Phil Royce. Phil attended an APS Vic conference where the speaker was talking about the anatomy of a flowering plant. Phil was interested but not sure what all the names meant, and noticed others in the same predicament. So, we are doing a basic plant anatomy class with lots of fabulous photos to assist.

OTHER NEWS

June Meeting Tuesday 16th. The speaker at May meeting will be John Bentleigh, who will talk to us about the Melton Botanic Gardens and the Eucalyptus arboretum. This will be followed on Saturday 20th with a group excursion to the gardens. If there is sufficient

interest a bus may be organised. This nice little story and video from the ABC might be of interest.

<http://www.abc.net.au/gardening/stories/s4010598.htm>



Melton Botanic Gardens

July AGM. Once again the AGM will take up a small part of the meeting with the majority devoted to our fabulous photo competition

August Meeting. This meeting will again be a members' night and the topic is Australian orchids. There will be lots of interesting facts, growing tips and great photos.

September Meeting. John Arnott, Manager Horticulture at the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens will address us about his work at the gardens. This will be followed by an excursion to the gardens the following weekend. More details later.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Ade Foster

After my rant about Facebook and members' contributions last month, I've been very pleased to receive photos from John Bell, Roger and Sheila Wileman, Tony Cavanagh, Phil Poustie Frank Scheelings and Matt Leach. Their fabulous photos have really livened up the page, and hopefully, given us much needed exposure in the wider community.

At the Plant Sale, I spent most of my time on the gate, asking folks how they heard about the sale. The vast majority said "I've been coming for years." So I asked them how they knew the sale was on that particular weekend. 90% replied that they had looked it up on the internet, and most of those said we should get a Facebook page.

There were over 350 views of our page over the weeks before and after the sale and we have had 5 new 'likes'. These are from folks who are not members of the club, but may become so if we can continue to pique their interest. So, keep the photos coming. I'll do a little tutorial at the next meeting to show you how to get the best results.

MORE OF ROGER'S MAGIC PHOTOS



Pityrodia terminalis



Conostylis invaginata



Verticordia ovalifolia



Grevillea oligomera



The church at Mullewa



***Grevillea leucoptris* along a track**