



Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 322– October 2016

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Acacias

Our speaker at the September meeting was Bill Atkinson who is a member of the Acacia Study Group. Bill will be familiar to many of you as the bookseller at our April Plant Sale.

He divided his talk into two sections. The first was a state by state photographic tour of the species from their different habitats. The second was a garden tour, showing photographs of different species in cultivation from various gardens.

Apparently there are 1053 current species of Acacia, with subspecies and variants bringing this number to close on 1300. Bill briefly described the different inflorescences as being either globular or cylindrical spikes. In the Northern parts of Australia the rod-like spikes are the predominant type of inflorescences.

Acacia myrtifolia is found in all states except Tasmania whereas our floral emblem *A. pycnantha* is found in SA, Vic, and NSW.

Here follows a few that Bill spoke to with some interest ...



***Acacia Glucoptera* – Flat or Clay Wattle**

A. glaucoptera is a western Australian species from near Ravensthorpe has flattened phyllodes from which the inflorescence arises. The new growth is particularly attractive due to its red colouration.

A. aphylla is rare in nature, found only as recently as the 1960s in granite outcrops just East of Perth. A particularly rich area for Acacias is Dalwallia, 250 km NE of Perth where there are 150 species.

A. cretacea from Eyre Peninsula in South Australia is considered to be endangered, and is only found in an area 3 km by 2 km.



***Acacia cretacea* – Photo Russell Dahms**

A. tetragonophylla from Coober Pedy has partial red flowers but this variety is said to be sterile.

A. acuminata has two sub-species; one confined to Western Australia, with the other sharing the WA distribution and spreading across South Australia and into western NSW. It is said that the flowers have a raspberry smell.

A. dunnii is known as the elephant ear wattle for its very large phyllodes

A. delphinium is named for the Greek word for dolphin, as the leaves look like a plunging dolphin

A. pentadenia is known colloquially as Cat bush as the plant gives off the redolent odour of tom-cat.

A. purpureopetala is found in Northern Territory, and, as the name suggests, has purple flowers.

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A. pendula has a lovely pendulous habit. There is an excellent, very large specimen in the car-park of the Geelong Racing Club in Breakwater Rd.

A. cyperophylla has a very interesting curly reddish bark



The bark of *A. cyperophylla*

A. cincinnata is remarkable for its curly seed pods

A. terminalis has nectaries on the stems near the flowers which are believed to attract birds. It is the only Acacia which is bird pollinated (Vic)

A. brownii is a low growing, hardy wattle from Brisbane Ranges.

A. acinacea the well-known gold dust wattle is found from SA, across Victoria and into NSW.

A. phlebophylla from Mt Buffalo contains hallucinogenic compounds much sought after by alternative types.

A. leprosa, the famous 'Scarlet Blaze', was discovered as late as 1994 at Wilhelmina Falls.



***A. Leprosa* – Scarlet Blaze**

My thanks to Frank Scheelings for taking these notes, and for the 'On TheTable' notes, while I was away for work in Bendigo. Ed.

ON THE TABLE -

with Sue McDonald.

Sue conducted our flower table which was burdened with a great variety of spring flowers.

Many Acacia species including *A. Denticulosa*, *agrophylla*, *aphylla*, *baileana*, *cardiophylla*, *cultriformis*, *deanii*, *floribunda*, *penninervis*, *podalyrifolia*, *pravissima*, *Saligna*, *uncinata*, *verniciiflua*, *verticillata* from Matt Leach

Others of note were *Gr. flexuosa*, *Darwinia* "Mr Stripey" (*leiostyla macrostegia* cross), *Darwinia* "coolamon pink"

Sty Pandoraglaucoma, *Indigofera australis*, *Phebalium Notini*, *Banksia coccinea*, *Hypocalymna angustifolium*, *Lasiopetalum baueri*, *Las schultzenii*, *Hibbertia cuneiformis*,

Ac leprosa, *glaucopetra*, *Senna* sp, *Melaleuca lecantha*, *leptospermoides*

Plus many more - these were the only ones (disappointingly) that she held up for discussion, and even then brushed over

Of particular interest was *Dracophyllum secundum* brought in by Margaret which is a very difficult to grow epacrid from the blue mountains related to *Richea*

PLANT OF THE MONTH by Matt Baars

Pittosporum angustifolium – Weeping Pittosporum

My plant is 5m tall and 2m wide, it has a pendulous habit and fine 4mm x 75mm dark green leaves. The masses of flowers are 12mm wide and a scented buttery yellow. This year they are even growing on the branches, and I have never seen so many. In the past it has not set many yellowish/orange capsules (fruit). It will be interesting to see how many fruits it sets this year.



***Pittosporum angustifolium* flowers**

The tree is cutting grown and is 15 to 20 years old. While a bit slow growing at the start, it has matured

into a lovely tree. It is growing next to a large gum in clay soil and is never watered.

The tree grows in a range of soils and conditions and can be variable in its growth and foliage. Its foliage can be used as fodder and has been used in traditional medicine.

UP-COMING EVENTS

APS GEELONG 50th BIRTHDAY BASH.

Thanks to all those who have replied to the Invitation to our birthday celebration on **October 18th** We have forty six attending, which is gratifying.

We will be conducting a plant table as we usually do at our monthly meeting. It would be great if this particular table was spectacular, so our visitors and dignitaries can appreciate what an amazing array of plants our members are growing. Please bring along whatever is of interest from your garden.

We will have a working bee at the party room at Arthur and Linda's on Saturday 15th at 10.00 am to prepare for the evening. All welcome.



GARDEN VISIT – Leach's Garden Inverleigh.

We will visit Leach's garden at Inverleigh on **Sunday 16th October**, meeting at 10.00am. Bring your own lunch, drinks and a chair. We will visit the Inverleigh Common after lunch to see a little of the wonderful plant life that abounds there. (See Matt's article)

Those who attend our monthly meetings or who peruse our Facebook page, will be aware of the amazing variety and quantity of species that Matt brings for us.

The address is **42 Gregory Dr. Inverleigh** at 10.00am.

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP BBQ

We will hold our Christmas break-up BBQ at Serendip Sanctuary in Lara on Saturday December 3rd, between 12.00 noon and 4.00 pm. Members can

arrive early, and wander around the sanctuary to their hearts' content. Gates open at 8.00 am.

We will meet for lunch at noon in the group BBQ area, behind the Tea-Tree fence. (Signs will be placed to direct you. The Club will provide sausages and bread, BYO everything else. While there are tables and benches there, chairs would be a good idea.

Gates close at 4.00 pm, so there's plenty of time for a wander after lunch, if you can't make it before. Serendip Sanctuary is at **100 Windermere Rd, Lara**

2017 PLANT SALE

The date has been set for our 2017 sale. Put April 22nd in your diaries. Due to poor public response on the Sundays of our last few sales, we have decided to go with a single day for 2017.

FUNGI

The Geelong Field Naturalists Club have invited Julene Cook to speak at a meeting at the Friends Room of the Geelong Botanic Gardens on Tuesday 11th October at 7.30 pm. Entrance is at the intersection Holt Road and Eastern Park Circuit in Eastern Park. Her subject will be 'Fungi of the Great Otways National Park'.



Cortinarius sp. – Moggs Creek

INVERLEIGH NATURE CONSERVATION RESERVE

By Matt Leach

Inverleigh Nature Conservation Reserve, formerly the Inverleigh Flora and Fauna Reserve, is situated 2 kilometres north-west of the township of Inverleigh and 27 kilometres west of Geelong. The reserve is 1050 hectares in area with farmland on the boundaries north, north-east and west. On the south-east is the Inverleigh Golf Course which covers around 57 hectares of natural bush land. Access to the reserve is from Common Road that comes off Hamilton Highway for people coming from Geelong or

the Inverleigh-Teesdale Road that runs straight through the reserve from north to south.

History/ Background . It was recommendation from the Land Conservation Council in 1975 that 1050 hectares in the Parish of Carrah be designated for a Flora Reserve to conserve native plants and animals. The recommendation was accepted by the Governor in Council on November 2nd 1978.



The purpose of the reservation was for the conservation of indigenous plants and animals. The reserve is a large area of forested public land which provides a viable remnant of original vegetation. The main over story is Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) and River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) woodlands. The reserve contains a number of rare plants e.g. Clover Glycine (*Glycine latrobeana*) and Hairy tails Ptilotus erubescens. The area contains a large colony of Eastern Grey Kangaroos (*Macropus giganteus*) Swamp Wallaby (*Wallabia bicolor*) and used to have good numbers of Koala (*Phascolarctos cinereus*).

The history of the reserve goes back to the proclamation in the Victorian Government Gazette was on the 19th of August, 1862. This Common the Inverleigh Farmers Common which was known for collection of firewood was united under the designation of the Inverleigh and Teesdale United Town and Farmers Common. The first ranger was appointed that year was George Oram.

There are archaeological sites that exist in the Reserve, at the south-west corner you can see and old weir between Old Shelford Road and Old Teesdale Track. The weir wall is clearly old and is made of locally sourced blue stone. At the east end of the weir is a set of foundations for a structure, made of the same local stone. In this area there are numerous European Olives (*Olea europea*) trees.

There is indication of Indigenous habitation with several shield trees have been found on the reserve. The soils of the reserve are of poor quality with the majority being yellow mottled duplex soils and

shallow deposits of ferruginous sand with gravels (iron stone) occur.

Past uses in the reserve have been stock grazing and firewood collection. More recently gravel extraction for roads has occurred on the southern boundary of the reserve where approximately 8 hectares was utilised by the shire of Leigh and Bannockburn 1958. Rubbish tip that was closed in 1995 on the south-east side, and night soil disposal. Beekeeping is on-going in the reserve at present through the summer months of the year, when the Manna Gums and River Red Gums are out in flower.

One other remaining use for the reserve is 8 wood lots on the north, west and south-east side of the Inverleigh – Teesdale Road. These were planted by Forests Commission between 1960 to 1973. They are Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) Bushy Yate (*Eucalyptus cornuta*) Mahogany Gum (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) Candlebark Gum (*Eucalyptus rubida*) Narrow-leaf Peppermint (*Eucalyptus andreana*) Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*) Red Ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*) and Gippsland Grey Box (*Eucalyptus bosistoana*). Plantation trees remain today for the local residents for firewood collection once felled periodically.



The reserve has some problems with environmental weeds from introduced to indigenous. The indigenous weed I am referring to is Hedge Wattle (*Acacia paradoxa*). In some areas of the reserve it has become an impenetrable thicket but this is not all bad as in some of these areas has led to some protection for some small plants from over grazing kangaroos and wallabies. The Hedge Wattle is a declared a noxious weed on nearby farmland and reported to be indigenous to the Inverleigh district and may have been spread into the reserve from hedgerows for the protection of stock. One of the main introduced plants that was taking over the reserve was Boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) in areas where soil type was sandy. Over the last 10 years there has been large effort by the friends of the Inverleigh Flora and



Flora Reserve to have working bees to pull out Boneseed and at present the Boneseed is in very low numbers.

Currently in the reserve there are around 280 species of plants which 50 of these are introduced. Some 150 genera. One the biggest family of plants is orchidaceae, having 48 species recorded. The most common of these seem to be this time of the year is Pterostylis, after the wet winter we have had has been favourable to them flowering and to some extent grazing animals having enough grass to browse on.

In October with our visit on the 16th there I hope will be lots of colour from plants from the pea family the Dillwynias, Daviesias, Kennedia and Bossiaceae. The



daisy family will be well represented with some the everlastings Chrysocephalum and Xerochrysums. Also the lily family from Bulbine, Caesia and Tricoryne.

There will many other plants in flower as well but I should mention there will be many orchids out in full flower from Diuris to Calandénias (I know they have been split into different genera) and hopefully it is a sunny day that we can see the Thelymitras out.

Currently the reserve is under some stress from a few factors that has been thrust upon it in recent years from some very dry weather. The last few years the reserve has seen below average rain with October to

March over this summer one of the driest 5 to 6 months on record. Many mature manna gums have died due to this and some from attack of wood bores (Golden Plains Shire arborist). Also every March Parks Victoria have prescribed burns in the reserve some slow burns and others quite intense depending if the hedge wattles are in the vicinity.

Manna Gums die from intense fires and due to these factors the reserve looks a mess currently. Dead trees standing and fallen strewn all over the ground. If we are lucky and you're interested in the native fauna there is some 160 bird species which have been recorded in the reserve. There are 23 Mammals recorded, half these being Bats, and 14 Reptiles, 4 of which are snakes.



BANKSIA EPICA

By Roger Wileman

Banksia epica was first recorded by Edward John Eyre in May, 1841 at Toolinna Cove during his 'epic' journey from Adelaide to Albany, Western Australia. This was a trip of 1800 km, in what may have been Australia's greatest exploration across an area that is almost treeless and most of all waterless. He was 26 year old and took 8 months to reach Albany.

The *Banksia* that E. J. Eyre described at Toolinna Cove in 1841 may not have been *Banksia epica* as *Banksia media* grows in the same location and both species are very similar. He may not have even noticed the difference in the two species. The first Herbarium collection was made by Ernest Charles Nelson in October, 1973, one hundred and thirty years after Eyre described it. But, Nelson recorded as being *Banksia media*. A further collection was made by John and Lalage Falconer in 1985. This specimen was named by Alex George in 1988 as *Banksia epica*.

Banksia epica is known from only two very isolated locations within the 625,344 hectare Nuytsland Nature Reserve, east of Esperance in Western

Australia. It grows at the top of the 80 meter high Baxter Cliffs overlooking the Great Australian Bight. The main population is approximately 30 km west of Point Culver. where there is approx 2000 plants and grow taller than the second location 70 km further east at Toolinna Cove where there are approx 350 plants, both locations are white sand over lime stone, making *B. epica*, *B. media*, and *B. praemorsa* ideal species to grow in Alkaline soils, pH 6-9.



Banksia epica

The two species growing at Toolinna Cove are the most easterly location of the W.A. Banksias . The next known species are *B. marginata*, *B. ornata* on the Eyre peninsula 900 km further west.

Banksia epica is a very desirable species and if it performs like *B. media* in the Geelong area, it should grow in a variety of soils. Small numbers have become available in recent years and I will have 6-8 plants available before Christmas if anyone would like to try them.

If anyone is contemplating a trip to Toolinna Cove will find it a very isolated and a beautiful place. You will need a very good, reliable 4WD, be completely self-sufficient, and not worry about the paint work when you re-join the Eyre Hwy. I will gladly give you directions.



Toolinna Cove

SILVER CASSIA – *Senna artemisioides*

On a recent camping trip to western NSW, severely curtailed by impassable roads, the bush/desert was alive with colour. The rains which had made the roads a quagmire, had signalled the wildflowers to open, and there was a riot of colour. The roads were lined with the bright purple weed, *Echium vulgare* — known as Viper's Bugloss, Patterson's Curse or Salvation Jane.



But the stand-out for me was the Silver Cassia, *Senna artemisioides*. The roadside reserves, and the areas not heavily grazed were ablaze with their rich yellow flowers. *S. artemisioides* is a rounded, bushy shrub to about 2 metres. The leaves are long and slender and a lovely grey/green when the air is still, but take on a silvery appearance when the wind blows. The specific name refers to Artemis, (the Greek goddess of the hunt, wild animals, virginity and child-birth) whose statue was cast in silver.

