



Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 331– September 2017

August meeting

The August meeting was Members night, where anyone could get up and present whatever they liked. It was a little disappointing that we only had four members present, but nonetheless, the talks generated plenty of interest and discussion within the group.

Chris Walker-Cook's garden renovations.

Chris kicked things off by showing us the progress of their garden renovations at their home in Geelong West.



The front and backyard before the garden renovations commenced.

The backyard was cleared of grass and Pittosporums, where the front yard and along the sides of the house was cleared of the concrete.



The cleared front and back yard.

The garden beds in the front were mulched. The backyard was landscaped with rocks, a natural looking water feature, pebbles and stone paved paths, which wound through the yard.



The final product, just awaiting the new plants.

We look forward to seeing the finished product in the near future.

Frost.

The second speaker for the night was Matt Leach, who talked to us about frost, what it does to plant cells and what the recent frosts have done to his and his parent's garden out in Inverleigh.

Matt told us that when frost occurs on a clear and calm night, the water inside and surrounding the plant cells can freeze. Once the temperature warms up, the plant cells thaw out and the water is absorbed back into the cells. Frost burn occurs when either thawing is quite slow, which deprives the cells of water, or too fast, such as by direct and strong sunlight.



Eucalyptus coronata plant and the flower buds on the *E. pyriformis*.

Matt went on to say that there are a few things that you can do, as well as products available that can help

Australian Plants Society – Geelong

P.O. Box 2012, Geelong. 3220.

Email: apsgeelong@gmail.com ; Website: www.apsgeelong.org ; Facebook page: www.facebook.com/APSGeelong

President: Bruce McGinness – bsmcginness@gmail.com

Vice-President: Matthew Leach – m.n.leach@hotmail.com

Secretary: Philip Royce – phil.i.royce@gmail.com

Treasurer: Frank Scheelings – ftscheelings@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Nicole Leach (interim) – avidbookworm@hotmail.com

minimise frost damage. You can try cultivating frost-tolerant plant varieties (but that wouldn't be much fun), you can also plant frost-tender plants in microclimates or shift your potted plants under sheltered areas. Try to keep your soil wet before a potentially frosty night, don't add nitrogenous fertiliser after mid-summer and don't prune in winter and spring were a few of the tips he gave us.



Acacia denticulosa (left) and the flowers from *Banksia oreophila* that have been destroyed by the frost.

Some of the commercial products available are frost cloth/protection fleece, plant protection bags and spray on products, such as Powerfeed, anti-transpirant spray and seaweed sprays. Overhead sprinkler systems may be of benefit, but they're no good if the water inside them is frozen as well.

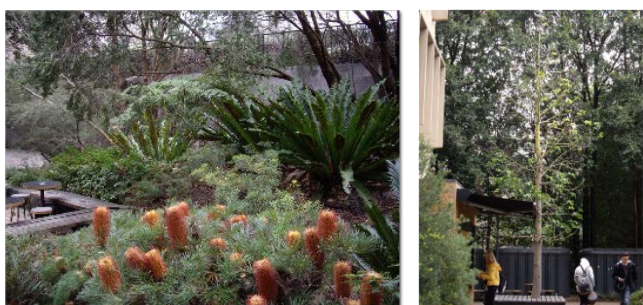


Platycerium bifurcatum, under the protection of the verandah was burnt, and even tough as nails *Acacia paradoxa* was damaged.

Gardens at the University of Melbourne.

The third speaker was Nicole Leach, who spoke about the gardens around her workplace – The University of Melbourne.

Nicole said the Parkville campus is full of lots of little gardens, with a mix of native and introduced species.



Ferns, Banksias and a Brachyiton in Nicole's favourite coffee spot.

She gave us a small tour of some of the places she's noted, especially on her way to her favourite coffee place and around the union building.



Indigenous plants alongside the Indigenous studies building



A leafless wattle (*A. aphylla*) and an *Epacris purpurascens* var. *purpurascens* next the union building

Nicole also gave us a quick snapshot of what the System Gardens, which Tim Ubergang spoke about in the June meeting, currently looks like and were open to the public for the University's Open Day on Sunday the 20th of August.

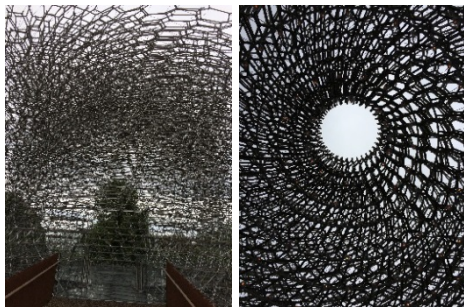


The remaining part of the old conservatory in System Gardens

Kew Gardens, London.

The final speaker was Bruce M^cGinness, who presented some photos from his trip to London, and Kew Gardens back in May of this year.

Bruce was over in Kew Gardens to attend a tropical plant identification course and showed us photos of Snow gums (*E. pauciflora*) growing well in the English conditions, as well as some interesting and different sculptures. He showed us a couple of photos of The Hive, which is an interactive sculpture that looks like a bee hive. The lights and sounds you see and hear inside are triggered by bee activity in the real bee hive at the gardens.



Outside (left) and inside The Hive at Kew Gardens.



Reclining mother and child sculpture, by Henry Moore



Kew Palace and grounds

On the table

with Geoff Wilson

An excellent, but smallish plant table was presented by Geoff, possibly because of all the frost damage done to various gardens – especially the Leach garden in Inverleigh, as outlined by Matt in his talk.

There were a number of Acacias, Sheila bought along *A. denticulosa*, Ros bought along an *A. longifolia* and Matt bought the *A. verniciflua* as well as the very showy *A. leprosa* 'Scarlett Blaze' with its unusual red flowers.



Samples of *Acacia verniciflua*, *A. denticulosa* and *A. leprosa* 'Scarlett Blaze' on this month's plant table.

A number of interesting Hakeas and Banksias also found their way onto the table. The striking pink

flowers of the *H. multilineata* was again on show and Frank bought us in an unusual blue flowering *H. lehmaniana*, a couple of interesting flowers I found were the *Banksia obtusa* (formerly a *Dryandra*), with its flowers being so low down the base of the plant and it's long, saw tooth-like leaves, as well as the *B. tenuis* (formerly *D. tenuifolia*) with it's very long and thin leaves and the flowers sitting in the middle, but again, at the base of the plant. This is also a similar thing with the *B. nivea* (also a former *Dryandra*). The birds love the flowers of all three of these Banksias and with them being embedded deep into the plant so much, it offers the birds protection from predators.

Grevilleas and Eremophilas were also represented well, with samples of *Grevillea* 'white Wings', *G. 'Peaches and Cream'* from Frank's garden, Barbara's sample of *G. flexuosa*, as well as Carmel's pieces of *G. 'Clearview David'*, *Eremophila glabra* and *E. brevifolia*.



Another plant that provided a bit of interest and discussion was the unusual *Bossiaea rhombifolia* (left), a yellow pea plant, with very small rounded leaves all the way up very long stems. An upright shrub, which grows to about 2m in height. It is also called the Bacon and Egg Bossiaea as the colours of the flowers resemble bacon and eggs.

Plant of the month

Eucalyptus caesia 'Silver Princess'

By Dianne Royce

I have had this plant in my garden since it was established five 'n' a half years ago. I purchased three 8 inch pots of *E. caesia* 'silver princess' from Philip Vaughan when he had the garden on the way to the Bellarine.

My garden soil had been cultivated with lots of gypsum, various sized sands and lots of organic matter. The garden faces west and has a raised area in front of the house so I was confident that my precious plants would grow successfully. I dug just one large hole at the highest point of the front garden and put all three plants into it, watered them in with Seasol, and waited.

All three Silver Princesses survived their early years and have become a wonderful feature. They are now taller than our single storey home, and he who must listen has refrained from one of his favourite pastimes - pruning the tips (*Ed – aka Phil*). The lower part of the

trunks are brown and green, progressing to a small white section before developing the classic silver powdery surface. This is the second year that they have produced magnificent red flowers with yellow tips often in clumps of three or more.



The information below about the plant has been sourced from Australian Native Plants 6th Ed by J. Wrigley and M. Fagg, Wikipedia, and the WA Botanic Parks and Gardens Authority:

E.caesia is a small mallee tree of the Myrtaceae family. There are two subspecies: *caesia* (4-9m) and *magna* (up to 15m) and it is found naturally in the south west wheatbelt region of Western Australia. It was named by George Bentham in 1867 from specimens collected 20 years earlier. This contributed to some difficulty in identification and contributed to the inappropriate use of the aboriginal word 'Gungurru' as a common name for *E. caesia*. *Caesia* is from the latin word 'caesius' meaning light grey.

The tree tends to weep and have red-pink or white flowers 40-50mm in diameter. The mature trunk has minni-ritchi bark - bark that peels in small curly flakes but does not detach. *E.caesia* blooms from May to September and prefers full sun and well drained soils. However, it is susceptible to strong winds and attack by scale and chewing insects.

E.caesia is identified as an excellent specimen plant. Propagation is from seed which germinates readily.

Upcoming events

Pre-meeting dinners

Members are very welcome to attend the pre-meeting dinners each month. They are held at The Sphinx Hotel, 2 Thompson Rd, North Geelong from 6pm.

September meeting – Plant propagation, grafting and division.

Roger Wileman, Matt Baars and Matt Leach will be leading our propagation night. They will be providing all necessary items but if any member wants something specific from home to propagate please bring along your sample to this meeting.

October meeting – Cathy Powers – Moths (TBC)

November meeting – Rare Plant Auction

Rare and difficult to purchase plants up for auction.

For upcoming APS events and plant sales, visit:
<https://apsvic.org.au/events/2017-09/>

Excursions

We have a number of excursions planned for the coming months. Please let us know of your interest so that a bus can be arranged if required.

Pomonal wildflower show 7th & 8th October

Always an amazing display, and a great weekend or day trip.

If you would like to stay overnight, Sheila and Roger have kindly volunteered the use of their unpowered block. It is located about a 10 min walk from the flower show site and across the road from the General store, which we're told, provides an ok coffee. If you are interested, please contact the Secretary on the email address: apsgeelong@gmail.com before the 30th September.

Bev and John Hanson's garden in Warrandyte.

This trip has been arranged for Sunday 29th October. If there is sufficient interest in travelling by bus, a subsidised rate will be provided to members. Otherwise members can take their own cars, and if they wish, car pool with others. The address is 104 Webb St Warrandyte (Melways 35 G2).

We need to confirm number and transport arrangements, so please advise Secretary via apsgeelong@gmail.com by 9th October if you are attending.

Bev Hanson spoke to us in March 2016 on her landscaping ideas — her garden looks impressive. Check out the website below for photos and a write up: www.anpsa.org.au/design/hanson.html

From APS Victoria

INTERNATIONAL FLOWER AND GARDEN SHOW, 2018

APS Victoria is going to have a presence at the Melbourne International & Flower Garden Show, 2018. We will be part of the Royal Horticultural Society stand.

We are looking for ideas, suggestions, offers of help and general enthusiasm in this project. If you have ideas or are able to assist in any way, please contact Dallas & Bernard Boulton at this email address: bernard.boulton@bigpond.com or Ph: 0418 354 838.

Tropical plant family identification course at Kew Herbarium, London

Bruce M'Ginness

In May this year I achieved a couple of aims I had set myself; the first was to visit my daughter who is living and working in London and the second was to learn more about tropical plants.

Whilst googling tropical plant identification courses I came across a tropical plant family identification course at Kew Gardens in London - so why not knock off two aims with one visit? Why go to United Kingdom to learn about tropical plants? Well it turns out Kew is a world leader in the study of tropical plants, this is due to British history of collecting plants for their economic value - think rubber, tea, spices and of course the thirst for knowledge about new territories.

One of the most famous directors of the gardens and herbarium was Joseph Hooker who collected thousands of plant specimens. A treat on the first day was a tour of the herbarium, including the older wings which store many of these old plant collections.



Temple of Aeolus 1 (left) and the lake vista

Over a period of two weeks from 9am to 6pm tropical plant families were studied using mostly herbarium specimens supplemented from plants from the garden's glasshouses. The technique is to look for distinguishing features of families that helps to distinguish them, I know this sounds obvious but it is difficult when confronted by lots of similar looking specimens. Not surprisingly this is becoming more difficult with a lot more emphasis for taxonomic separation of plants being placed on a plants molecular characteristics than morphology. It was certainly a crash course in tropical plant family identification and as always the more you find out the more you find you don't know.

Kew gardens in May was a treat with many plants in full bloom and others just finishing a spring display; summer blooming plants were getting ready to burst into action. Unfortunately some of the major features such as the Prince of Wales conservatory and the pagoda were closed for renovations. The Australian plant selection had been relocated but truly I was not visiting Kew to see Australian plants, but it is

interesting to see how they cope in a different part of the world.



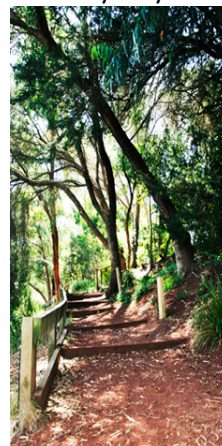
Eucalyptus dairympleana (left) and the flowers of *E. gregsoniana*.

Eucalypts are the most obvious Australian plant species in the garden with alpine species such as *Eucalyptus pauciflora* growing well and attaining a good size. More cold sensitive species such as *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* and Grevilleas were grown in glasshouses. For me Kew gardens is all about vistas; the landscape is always trying to present some grand view framed by trees with expanses of lawn, wide paths or glimpses of sculptures across lakes.

I spent many happy hours when not at the course exploring the gardens, I would be glad to return at any time of the year to see how the garden changes through the seasons. If there is an intention to have multiple visits to the gardens I would suggest purchasing a Kew Gardens friends pass which gives unlimited visits for you and an accompanying person for a year. This is a good investment considering the daily admission price of 15 pounds per person.

The Kevin Hoffman Walk, Lara Nicole Leach

As many of you know, my husband Matt works at the



Kevin Hoffman Walk in Lara a few days a week. He manages the Corrections Victoria and Work for the Dole volunteers. Matt is also on the committee and is their link to the intimate goings on along the garden and their future planning.

Here is a little bit of the background about the Walk and how it came to be the lovely stretch of gardens that it is today.

Hovells Creek was originally called Duck Ponds Creek, and Lara took one of its previous names from the name of this creek. The name was changed to Lara in 1874 after petitioning by the locals and is thought to be taken from the Aboriginal word meaning Stone or Building of stones.

The township of Lara came into existence in 1857 after the railway line between Melbourne and Geelong was constructed. In the 1960's, Ian McClean Turner developed the estate, known as Wingara Drive. He planted the first trees along Hovells Creek.



During the 1970's, the Hoffman family moved into Wingara Drive. They began looking after the trees that Ian McClean Turner had planted and soon began landscaping the banks along the east side of Hovells Creek. This was achieved by lugging buckets of water up from the creek. In the beginning it was simple, the Hoffman's just cleaned up the rubbish and boxthorn along the creek.

In 1973 a significant flood caused much damage to the banks of the creek, when 190mm of rain fell over a period of 20 hours. Water flooded 15 homes in the Flinders Avenue area.

In 1976, the Shire of Corio finally sealed the Wingara Drive road. Kevin asked them if they could install a water main, to which they obliged. This allowed for the planting of more plants along Hovells Creek.

Over the years everything was bought in, the soil, rocks, tree stumps, pots and, of course, the plants.



Everything was built as well, the steps, seats and the earth sculpture at the end of Walkers Road. When Kevin wasn't working at his day job, he was working on the walk. In 1982, young Wingara Drive resident, David Martin, a student landscape architect at the University of Canberra, won an international design award for his "Landscape Masterplan" of an area which encompassed the Kevin Hoffman Walk, as well as the open space and wetlands opposite known as 'The Duck Ponds'.

In 1983, the Shire of Corio made a commitment to implement David's award winning "Landscape

Masterplan" as part of its flood prevention programme to protect central Lara. This led to an early phase of revegetation works in 1984 & 1985 along the creek corridor. They used locally grown River Red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) as well as other indigenous plants along the creek edges, which have now been integrated with the Walk.

After a big health scare in 2012, Kevin's capacity to continue working on the walk decreased. So, to combat this, the Friends of Kevin Hoffman Walk (FoKHW) was established. They support Kevin in terms of volunteering physical maintenance of the walk, as well as applying for grants to be able to undertake any works required.

The Kevin Hoffman Walk celebrated its 40 year anniversary in 2015. In the same year, the path between Walkers Road and Flinders Avenue was planted out to become the indigenous gardens part of the KHW, thus linking Station Lake Road and Flinders Avenue.

The KHW has evolved over the years into what it is today, over 800 meters of walking track, weaving through a unique collection of native plants, brimming with birds and insects. Recently there has been seven beautiful Wathaurong glass inlaid bollards installed, as well as more seating in key areas.



Kevin & Beverley's daughters, Joanne (middle right) and Roslyn (middle left), cut the ribbon to unveil the Wathaurong glass bollards under the watchful eye of Hon. Richard Marles, and Hon. John Eren.

Kevin Hoffman garden walk will continue to evolve in the future but is dependent on adequate community and government support and funding.

HELP ... Again

I will be looking after the next newsletter as well whilst Ade and Penny are away on holidays.

I urge you all to consider writing an article for the newsletter. It really isn't difficult, or demanding, and doesn't need to be more than a couple of paragraphs. I would love to hear from you if you feel the sudden urge to put fingers to keyboard ...

Shoot me an email at avidbookworm@hotmail.com