



AUSTRALIAN  
PLANTS SOCIETY  
— Geelong —

# Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 302 – November 2014

## OCTOBER MEETING

## Marine Life

The speaker at our October meeting was Carly Bronk. Carly is a Ranger with Parks Victoria, currently working in the Anglesea Heath and Easter part of the Great Otway National Park. National Parks is responsible for the management of Marine National Parks and Marine sanctuaries, and it is those areas about which Carly talked to us.

Victoria's marine life is incredibly diverse, and 90% of those species are endemic to Victoria. The waters are mostly cold and nutrient low, fed by the southern Circumpolar current. This results in higher diversity of animal life. The number of species is greater than on the Barrier Reef.

There are eleven Marine Sanctuaries and thirteen Marine National Parks in Victoria, but these only cover 5.3% of Victoria's marine habitat.



Victoria's Marine Parks and sanctuaries.

There are nine main types of marine habitat along the Victorian coast ....

**Kelp Forests**, which are diminishing due to increasing water temperatures, and are found in up to 20 metres of water. They act as do terrestrial forests giving food and shelter to marine life.

**Rocky Reefs** provide habitat for marine algae, invertebrate and vertebrate animals.

**Intertidal Rocky Reefs** are the reefs exposed at low tide. These are important habitat for many shellfish, and the animals which feed on them. They are also the areas most affected by human interaction.

**Deep Reefs** are never exposed at low-tide and provide habitat for many marine animals. The colour and range is extraordinary but not often seen by people.



Intertidal reefs at The Bluff, Barwon Heads

**Sea-grass Beds** are important nurseries for many of the larger fish species, as well as permanent habitat for many smaller animals. The beds in Port Phillip are slowly regenerating since scallop dredging was banned in 1997. Seagrass is related to the terrestrial grasses and have flowers, seeds and regenerate also vegetatively via their rhizomes. They are in shallow water, often exposed at low tide. There are about 20 species world-wide with 20 in Australia.

**Sandy Plains** are the areas of open sandy bottom which are very common in the area. Although they seem barren, they are densely populated with an incredibly diverse flora and fauna. In Gippsland a survey found 803 species of invertebrates in just in 10.4 m<sup>2</sup> of sand. They are also home to many unique vertebrate species.



A 'Sea-Pen' on the sandy flats – Photo Richard Ling

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**Mudflats-Flats** are the muddy bottoms exposed by the falling tides. These, too, are very diverse in flora and fauna.

**Bays, Estuaries and Inlets** provide sheltered waters where a large number of species come to feed and to breed.

**Open waters** are the unprotected deep waters right along the coast.



**Leafy Sea-Dragon – Photo Jeffery Jeffords**

Carly then showed us a fabulous series of photographs and a video of the immensely rich and beautiful marine life of the area.



**Stargazer – well camouflaged in the sandy bottom.**

## PLANT TABLE

with Di Royce

The plant table was hosted by Di Royce this month and there was a very interesting array of flowers on display.

With the FJC Rogers Seminar the previous weekend focussing on *Brachychiton*s and related genera, it was good to see many of them on the table, including *Lasiopetalum schultzei*, a lovely white flowering plant which does well in full sun or shade; *L. discolor*, a low,

weeping shrub with pinkish flowers; *Thomasia querqifolia*, with lovely drooping pale pink flowers with deep maroon centres, and another *Thomasia* of unknown species with deep purplish flowers.

*Chamaelucium*s featured with at least six forms present, ranging from soft mauve through to deepest purple. There was Purple Pride, Burgundy Blush, Seaton's Form, Sweet Rosy, Sweet Sixteen and an unknown one from Ade's garden.



**The Unknown Chamaelucium**

There were *Kunzeas*, *Callistamons* and *Beaufortias* of every shade including a beautiful one from Frank's garden. *Melaleuca citrina* is a large shrub with lemon yellow flowers and a strong smell of lemon when the leaves are crushed. *Beaufortia schauri* has bright mauve flowers, and *Kunzea pulchella* is a stunning fire engine red, and *Melaleuca filifolia* has delightful pink/mauve ball-shaped flowers.

Others worthy of mention were a pink form of *Ozythamnus diosmafolius*, *Cooperhooikia polygalacea* with delicate mauve flowers, and *Alyogyne huegii* – a white form, as much for their tongue-twister names as for their beauty.



**Cooperhooikia polygalacea – Photo William Archer**



And our table would not be complete at this time of year without Margaret Guenzel's fabulous flannel flowers. She brought along large and small sizes ... she is deliberately cultivating the smaller ones, as they are less affected by the wind which plagues her garden.

### **CALOTHAMNUS, A MUCH UNDER-RATED GROUP**

**By Tony Cavanagh**

The genus *Calothamnus* was one of the early native plants that was grown in the 1970s, mainly because they proved to be hardy and reliable in the garden, were reasonably easy to propagate from seed or cuttings and while some species formed nice bushy shrubs to 2 or 3 metres, others were low and spreading. Their foliage was bright green to hairy grey and contrasted spectacularly with the mainly bright red flower clusters, which are found over spring and summer. It seems to me that this group of useful plants is no longer popular although you can still find a few of the more common species in more specialist nurseries. What follows are some notes on the genus in the hope that members will seek plants out and try them in the garden – you will not be disappointed.



*Calothamnus* is confined to the south west of WA, but grows in variable habitats. Some such as *C. gilesii* come from dry, low rainfall areas and can withstand drought and frosts. *C. villosus* on the other hand is coastal and ideally suited to seaside gardens, especially able to withstand salt winds. I always thought that quite a number of species lived in forested habitat but in researching for this article found that most actually grow in more open environments, on sand and gravel plains often among other shrubs, around granite outcrops and in rocky situations. One thing these all have in common is good drainage so, as is usual with WA plants, in your garden, you need a well-drained site and preferably near full sun although many can tolerate partial shade. Once established, they are mostly drought tolerant and can withstand moderate frosts. I saw a particularly graphic example of frost resistance on my daughter's property outside of Mildura. Several years

ago, we grew 10 *Calothamnus* plants for them, taken as cuttings from an old bush in their garden. These were planted in an open, exposed position and in the last 12 months have had to withstand a long, hot summer with temperatures over 40 °C for days on end, followed by a winter with heavy frosts down to -5 °C which nearly killed many lemon trees in local orchards. The *Calothamnus* (I think it was probably a form of the common *C. quadrifidus*) as you can see from the attached pictures, were also badly frosted and you might think were dead. However, it was only the top branches and after a bit of judicious pruning, the plants were good as new. Mighty tough plants.



For many years, there were 25 *Calothamnus* species, but more recently, with new species described, the number had climbed to 38. Then in June of this year, a paper was published which “lumped” all these, and several other genera such as *Eremaea*, *Callistemon*, *Regelia*, *Beaufortia*, and four others you have never heard of, into *Melaleuca*!! There are now nearly 400 species in the “new” *Melaleuca* so good luck trying to find out what has happened to your favourite “Callistemon” or “*Calothamnus*”. The new names have not yet been accepted in botanical circles so I will continue to call them *Calothamnus*, and probably will for many years into the future.





The best known medium to tall shrub is *C. quadrifidus*, 2-3 m high by about 2 m across. This is widely grown and several forms are available commercially. Especially attractive is the so-called “grey leaf” form (often in the past sold as “*C. villosus*”) but the bright red flowers in spikes along one side of the stem look great in both the green and grey forms. The habit of flowers forming on one side of the branches gives *Calothamnus* the common name of “one-sided bottlebrush”. Another, which with pruning makes a good hedge, is *C. homalophyllus* and it tolerates part shade and dryness. A spreading small shrub for me is *C. chrysantherus*, up to about 1 m with similar spread. It does best in a warm spot and can handle part shade. It has sparse but striking red flower clusters and is most ornamental. One I haven’t grown but which is quite showy and suits hot, dry areas is *C. gilesii*. It is a medium sized shrub. Another medium shrub is *C. pinifolius*, which as its name implies, has sharp, pine-like leaves, making it ideal as a barrier plant. And my last is *C. sanguineus*, a low growing, spreading shrub with bright green foliage and rich red flower clusters, an ideal landscaping plant and tolerant of drought and frost.

**PLAINS WANDERING**

**Ade Foster**

Frank Scheelings and I took advantage of a sunny Saturday afternoon to seek out some of the sun-orchids which flower along the roadside reserves around Rokewood.



***Ptilotus macrocephalus* – Rokewood**

We stopped off at the Bannockburn Cemetery, where there is a patch of allegedly remnant grassland, recommended by one of our speakers as a good spot to find native plants. Unfortunately, all we found was weeds, and, a very rude and overly-aggressive American (Canadian?) gentlemen, who ‘escorted us off the premises’.

It was another matter entirely at the Rokewood Cemetery. Here there is a large plot between the road

and the gravesites which is fenced to keep visitors’ cars from parking there, but where native plants abound. Although it was very dry, it is an interesting plant community, and well worth a visit in spring.

*Chryscephalum apiculatum*, the Common Everlasting, was everywhere among the kangaroo Grass, *Themeda triandra*, forming small clumps or quite large mats with silvery grey/green leaves and bright egg-yolk yellow flowers. Yellow was the colour of the day, and there were Clustered Everlasting, *Chrysocephalum semipapposum*, Swamp Billy-Buttons, *Craspedia paludicola*, Wiry Burttons, *Leptorhynchus tenuifolius*, and Small-leaf Goodenia, *Goodenia pusilliflora*, and the delightful Golden Moths orchid, *Diuris lanceolata*, all making a bright contrast to the dry grasses.



**Golden Moths orchid - *Diuris lanceolata***

One lovely little daisy is listed as ‘Nationally Threatened’ on the information board in the parking area. With the imposing name of *Leucochrysum albicans*, *ssp. albicans*, *var. tricolor*, the White Sunray, this little plant grows to about 45cm with bunches of white papery flowers in spring and summer. Another threatened species on this block is the Button Wrinklewort, *Rutidosis leptorhyncoides*, a small herb with tight, whitish button flowers.



***Leucochrysum albicans*, *ssp. albicans*, *var. tricolor***



There were patches of blue and purple from the Tufted Bluebell, *Wahlenbergia communis*, Blue Pincushions, *Brunonia australis* and the Chocolate Lily, *Arthropodium strictum*, and, finally, Slender Sun-orchids, *Thelymitra pauciflora*.

There were two species of Pimelea present, the Common Rice-flower, *P. humilis* and the Smooth Rice-flower, *P. glauca*. Both are low almost prostrate shrubs with masses of tiny, creamy-white flowers, typical of the genus. Milkmaids, *Burchardia umbellata*, were very common and growing much taller and more robustly than I remembered.

The feather-heads, *Ptilotus macrocephalus* were just beginning to show their amazing, fluffy flower heads, and among the grass, the Pale sundews, *Drosera peltata* ssp. *peltata* were in full flower.

I would recommend this area to anyone who wants a short trip to see some of the amazing plants of our disappearing grasslands. The roadside reserves either side of Rokewood are equally interesting and rich in flora ... I even pulled off a 'Roger', spotting a nice patch of Showy Parrot-pea, *Dilwynia sericea*, from the car at 100kph.



Showy Parrot-pea - *Dilwynia sericea*

#### GARDEN VISITS INDENTED HEAD / DRYSDALE

20 members met at the wreck of the Ozone at Indented Head at 9.30. Luckily the General Store sold coffee, because the promised 28 degrees was looking decidedly unlikely, as a brisk breeze whipped off the choppy waters of Port Phillip.

Our first stop was Glenrana Drive, in Indented Head, where we met our hosts, Geoff and Jann Foster. Their block is 1.5 acres, with a large pond, fringed with reeds. The garden was mostly mature palms and flax when they purchased, but is slowly being converted to mostly natives, with a sprinkling of exotics, and a huge vegie garden. Outstanding specimens of Grevillea Long John, a *G. longistyla* x *G. longifolia* hybrid and

*Grevillea endlicheriana*, the Spindly grevillea were particularly noticeable, but most of the natives seemed to be doing exceptionally well in the sandy loam soils of the area.



Geoff had arranged for us to tour the gardens of three of his neighbours, so we headed off to the garden of Virginia & Rob Parry. This garden is a little over two acres, with predominantly exotics, but a few very fine specimen natives. Again, a large vegie patch was a feature as was the golf putting green, and the beginnings of the summer cricket pitch. Natives which caught my eye included a massive *Correa backhousia* and an equally vigorous *Acacia glaucoptera*.

A little further down the road, we met with Anita & John Eckberg. A feature of this garden was a long curving driveway, edged with garden beds bristling with both natives and exotics. A beautiful stand of *Eucalyptus caesia* and *Poas* at the rear of the house created a beautiful bushland area, and clever use of *Lomandras* and *Dianellas* under a raised deck gave an illusion of a wetland in a dry environment.



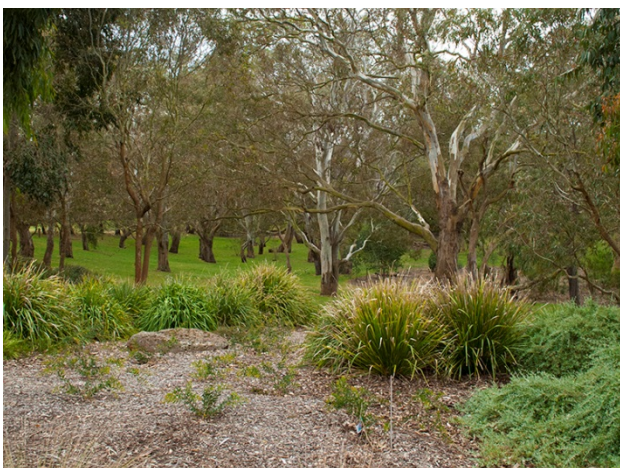
Next door is the garden of Marion & John Best ... again, predominantly native with exotics interspersed. This garden is very structural, with some very



interesting use of dwarf she-oaks, flowering grass-trees and *Acacia cognata* as architectural features among the sculptures and water-features. The street front had some massive *Angophora costata*, just past their best as far as flowering, but magnificent none-the-less. The nature-strip has been planted with *Corymbia ficifolia* and other flowering gums, with bright ground-covers between.



We moved on to Drysdale for a very pleasant picnic lunch, and were joined by four more members who were unable to make the morning visits. After lunch we drove to Drakes Road to visit 'Red Gums', the magnificent 6 acre property of Ron and Winsome Vernieux. As the name suggests this property features an acre of remnant red gum bushland – the trees are estimated to be 400 years old.



The garden was designed and built by Sam Cox, and has been intentionally designed to be without any defined boundaries. Broad grassed areas join gardens, water features, dense plantings and lovely open areas making a garden that begs you to wander through it. I was particularly taken by the beautiful cascade into a rock pool, and a huge Moreton Bay fig. We could have spent an entire day here, exploring the gardens, and visiting the underground wine cellar!



Thanks to all the generous people who opened their gardens to us for what was a very enjoyable day.

## UP-COMING EVENTS

### Australian Open Garden Scheme

**22 & 23 November** *2014 Kerry's Garden, 27 Como St, Alphington.* A contemporary Australian plant garden featuring an innovative mix of native plants complemented by carefully selected exotic shrubs & perennials. Grasses, kangaroo paws, gymea lilies, a copse of *Eucalyptus tetragona* framed by lilly pillys.

**22 & 23 November** *Dunns Creek Estate, 137 McIlroys Rd, Red Hill.* A historic rambling garden whose owners have created an extensive wetlands fed by natural springs. Boardwalks and gravel paths wind past self-sown native plants which are a habitat for swamp wallabies, frogs and 80 bird species. Also, wine tastings, produce stall and feeding of animals.

**22 & 23 November** *Brighton Paradise, 24 Glencairn Ave, Brighton East.* A young Australian plant garden designed by Phillip Johnson is cleverly integrated with the contemporary house, featuring a natural pool with waterfall and reed bed filter system and vertical garden, fernery and vegetable garden.

**6 & 7 December** *Christmas Fair at Bolinda Vale, 1556 Lancefield Rd, Clarkefield*

Enjoy locally produced wines and olive oils; home-made produce and products, a coffee cart, and bronze birdbaths by Willie Wildlife Sculptures for sale. A traditional country garden and a dramatic and exciting new area created by Phillip Johnson. Phillip will conduct guided tours of the garden at 11 am and 2 pm each day.



## APS VICTORIA AGM

November 8<sup>th</sup>

The APS Victoria Annual General Meeting will be held in the Anakie Hall, Staughton Vale Rd, Anakie on November 8<sup>th</sup>, at 10.00 am. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Those who are members of APS Vic and are interested in attending this meeting, or other APS Vic events, may wish to network with regards travel etc. If you are interested, please contact Phil Royce ..

[phil.i.royce@gmail.com](mailto:phil.i.royce@gmail.com)

## OUR NEXT MEETING

November 18<sup>th</sup>

The speaker at our November meeting is our own Frank Scheelings. Frank and Tina had an amazing holiday in Borneo last year, and Frank will amaze us with his beautiful photography and, hopefully, regale us with tales of Tinie.



## CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP

The December meeting will take the usual form of a BBQ at Roger and Sheila's house, 17 Aldershot St, on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5.00 pm. The club will provide sausages, hamburgers, vegie-burgers and bread. You are asked to bring a salad or desert to share, and your own eating utensils, plates, glasses and chairs. Most importantly, you should bring your own drinks. In a departure from previous years, the club **will not be providing any drinks** except tea and coffee.

There will be an attendance sheet at the next meeting to enable us to cater the event. **IMPORTANT:** If you intend to come to the BBQ, but won't be at the next meeting, please email Frank ... [ftscheelings@gmail.com](mailto:ftscheelings@gmail.com) to confirm your attendance.

## FUTURE MEETINGS/SPEAKERS

**February 17<sup>th</sup>** February is always our first gathering for the year and, again, it takes the form of a BBQ get-together. This year it will be at the BBQ area on Warralily Blvd, just off the Barwon Heads Rd, Warralily. This will be on the regular meeting night, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00 pm. The club does not cater this at all, so **BYO everything.**

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** Our speaker will be the inimitable Roger Wileman, who will talk to us about his recent trip to Western Australia for the wildflower season. I've seen some of Roger's photos ... don't miss this!

**April 21<sup>st</sup>** Our April meeting will be addressed by some of the members and will take the form of a 'Botany 101' lesson ... explaining a bit of basic botanical terminology, plant structures and identification tips.

## REPORT ON FJC ROGERS SEMINAR – October 2014

by Phil Royce

The Bendigo Native Plant Group Inc hosted the FJC Rogers Seminar over the weekend 18/19 October 2014 at the All Seasons Hotel Conference Centre in Bendigo. Three members of APS Geelong, Phil & Di Royce and Bruce McGuiness, attended the seminar on the 18<sup>th</sup> and garden visits on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The theme of this year's seminar was Brachychiton and Allied Genera. Just what are the allied genera? Fortunately, the organisers had a list: the allied genera include Thomasia, Lasiopetalum, Commersonia, Lysiosepalum, Guichenotia and Keraudrenia.



Speakers on Saturday morning included:

- \* Dr Kerry Rathie leader of the Brachychiton and Allied Genera Study Group
- \* Mr Des Boorman captivated his audience with tales of breeding tropical Brachychitons
- \* Mr Trevor Blake with a very entertaining talk about, and pictures of, Thomasia and Lasiopetalum



\* Dr Carolyn Wilkins about her travels in WA chasing Tribe Lasiopetaleae, and the odd camp-coffee

I was surprised that all of these people expressed determination to keep using the old Family classification of Sterculiaceae rather than the new one of Malvaceae. The presentations, and questions from the audience, revealed my lack of knowledge of plant structures and classification – just shows that my year nine botany really needs some updating. So, I have a ready-made new year's resolution.

A huge array of raffle prizes were on offer – books, glass mosaics of Lasiopetalums, packs of plant food products, plant drawings by botanical artist Jean Dennis, an irrigation system, a designer copper fountain, leaf blower, plants and plant holders. A certain APS Geelong attendee bought just one ticket (\$1) and won the fountain at the draw during the Seminar dinner, as shown in the photo below.



**Our committee even wins other clubs' raffles! (Pg 10)**

The afternoon was taken up with:

- \* Mr Rodger Elliot cultivation requirements for *Thomasia* and other allied genera
- \* Ms Kathy Musial, a Curator at the Huntington Botanic Gardens in California, USA and a *Brachychiton* convert
- \* Mr John Barrie describing techniques for propagation by grafting
- \* Mr Neil Marriott describing techniques for propagation by cuttings
- \* a representative from the 2016 FJC Rogers organising committee who advised that the seminar will be in and around Hamilton and topic will be Orchids
- \* selectable workshops covering: plant photography; grafting; cuttings; and botanical illustrations

The dinner was the dinner – but it didn't pay to sit up the back. But I did enjoy Bruce's raffle prize acceptance dance!!! The after-dinner speaker was Mr Rod Orr who spoke about the plants in the Bendigo area.

Sunday consisted of visits to three local gardens and the Goldfields Nursery - our group visited this nursery 12 months ago. It's under new management but to me not much had changed – still lots of enticing tube-stock and small pots. Two of the three gardens were on acreage and one was on quite a large, almost double, residential block. I've left a challenge for you – I haven't named the plants in photos.



Garden One was located on a property of 12 acres. The owner used to operate the Goldfields nursery. There was a house garden complete with bush-fire shelter and further away a relatively new garden (two-three years old) being raised for cut flowers. The home owner admitted to an ant problem. The natural slope of the property allowed for a big dam and some very interesting beds, most of which had been created by just scraping the local soil up into raised beds – no soil external to the property had been brought in.



Garden Two was the residential block and the owner was a landscape gardener. In creating his garden, the entire area was excavated to a depth of more 1 metre, and more in parts. Left-over sandstone blocks were shaped and positioned amongst small stone mulch to produce a stunning garden. And not all the plants were *brachychitons*!





Garden Three was also on acreage. This was also a mix of existing beds and works in progress. I was not able to determine any particular pattern to the beds but they were cleverly arranged so that ah-haa moments were constant as you meandered along the paths. I overheard one visitor ask if the owner if he could take some cuttings of a particular plant and while I didn't hear the answer, the pained look on the questioner's face told the story.



In summary, I think that the 2014 FJC Rogers Seminar hosted by the Bendigo Group was a resounding success and I enjoyed it very much. I don't attribute anything to the colossal weather we had over the weekend but it did make the garden visits more enjoyable.

I look forward to the 2016 FJC Rogers Seminar to be held in Hamilton. Its topic of Orchids should interest many in our group. Keep an eye out for the newsletters.

*My thanks to Phil for this report ... I've included a few more of his photos, and some from Bruce, here for your enjoyment ... AND*

*I'd like to encourage all of you to consider writing articles for future editions. Afterall .. it's YOUR newsletter*





## The Water Feature

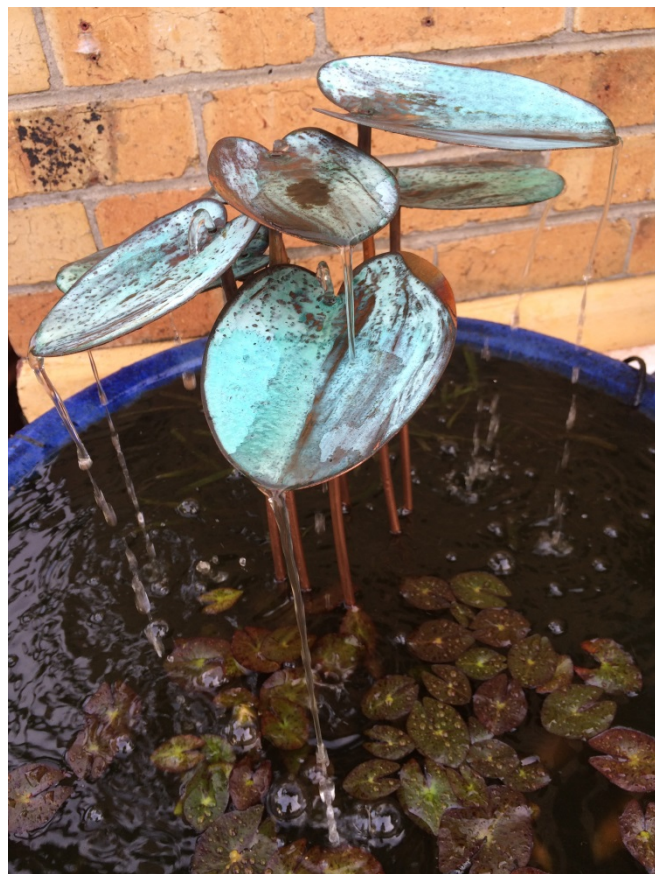
by Bruce McGinnis

At the recent FJC Rogers seminar at Bendigo I purchased five raffle tickets at the door for a dollar each; the idea was to put your ticket in a box next to the item you wished to win in the raffle.

I was especially taken by a water feature made by the local sculptor Yvonne George based at the Bendigo Pottery. I put a ticket in the box next to the prize hoping for the best. Later that evening at the dinner, I was contemplating my lemon tart as they started to draw the raffle for the water feature. I held off hoeing into the tart to avoid a bearded man covered in custard accepting the prize—I was mighty excited when my name was called. The folk attending might have been a bit bemused by my excitement ---so it goes.

When I got home I wasted no time in ordering a pump to get this feature running; I think it looks great. I sent a picture to Yvonne to thank her for donating the prize. Some of Yvonne's work can be seen on her website:

[www.yvonnegeorgesculptor.com](http://www.yvonnegeorgesculptor.com)

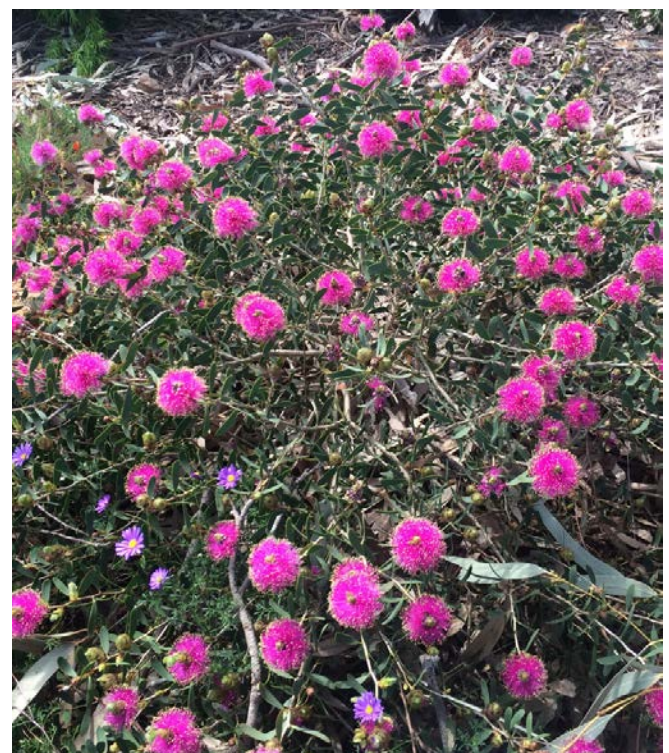


**Bruce's water feature in full operation ☺**

*Here are a couple of pics which Bruce took in the gardens over the weekend ....*



**Correa Reflexa – Big Bob (hint..also one of Phil's)**



**Melaleuca conothamnoides**