



AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY
— Geelong —

Correa Mail

Newsletter No. 324– December 2016

NOVEMBER MEETING

David Radbourne

David Radbourne is a landscaper who works primarily in Anglesea and the immediate area. He built the garden of APS Geelong members Bill and Olivia Clarke. Following a visit to their garden soon after its completion a couple of years ago, it was decided to ask David to address the meeting about his work. This was to be followed up with a visit to some of his garden in Anglesea.

David's interest in the bush around Anglesea began as a boy when he surfed the coast and rode dirt-bikes in the surrounding bush. The vistas of the creeks and waterholes stayed with him into his adult life and have been an inspiration in his current profession.



David uses rocks to create a 'bush' feel

He worked on a dairy farm, and in the automotive industry, before heading to Queensland for a short period. On return to Geelong he got a job as a green-keeper at a couple of local bowling clubs, and enrolled in a course at Burnleigh Agricultural College. He taught for a while at a TAFE in Brisbane, but returned to Anglesea and the bush, and began landscaping to supplement his income.

He admits he knew nothing about landscaping, but figured the people who live in Anglesea, did so because they liked the bush. So he determined to

incorporate that as far as possible in the gardens he built. And so he 'encouraged' his clients to use rocks and incorporate the bush into their gardens.

He was inspired by Ellis Stones, Edna Walling and Gordon Ford, who were founders and giants of the Australian landscaping scene. He has also been inspired by local luminaries Mary White, who was one of the founders of ANGAIR and Geoff Clark who founded the 'Otways Indigenous Nursery'.

David's philosophy is perhaps best summed up by a quote from Gordon Ford - "*A well-designed bush garden is timeless - a garden for today and a garden for tomorrow*"

RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZES

Roger, Matt and Bruce in particular have been very generous in providing plants as raffle and door prizes throughout the year. It's gratifying that members are prepared to help out in this, and many other ways. Thank you!

PLANT TABLE

with Roger Wileman

Roger conducted out plant table discussion this month, and a lively discussion it was. A new 'system' was instituted at this meeting, with members placing a coloured flag on the specimens which particularly interested them, and discussion centred around these flagged plants.

Chamelaucium 'Dancing Queen' was notable among at least 10 different species and varieties of *Chamelauciums*. *C. 'Dancing Queen'* is a small shrub, 1m x 1m, with delightful, pale pink double flowers. Like all *Chamelauciums*, it would be a great addition to any garden.

Pelargonium rodneyii is a locally indigenous plant with lovely pink/mauve flowers in spring and summer. It self-seeds and spreads readily.

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Grevilleas of note were a pale flowered form of *G. georgiana*, the lovely pendulous, maroon/purple flowers of a standardized *G. pluijuga*, and a startling deep gold flowered hybrid of *G. juncifolia* x *G. spinulosa*.

There were several small Eucalypts which caught members' attention. Two colour forms of *E. pyriformis* – one red and one yellow – came from Matt Leach's garden at Inverleigh. *E. eximia*, with deep creamy-yellow flowers, is known as the Yellow Bloodwood. Is it now *Corymbia*?? A yellow flowered hybrid of *E. kingsmillii* x *E. pachyphylla* rounded out the Eucalypts.

There were four specimens of *Callistamon violacea*, each with a slightly different colour. *Commersonia dasyphylla*, has massed racemes of creamy/white flowers. *Regelia velutina* is a large shrub with soft grey/green leaves. The branches are densely covered and resemble large feathers, with the spherical deep red/orange flowers at the ends. *Beaufortia schaueri* is a compact and very showy shrub with masses of purple pom-pom flowers .



***Beaufortia schaueri* – Photo I Holliday**

PLANT OF THE MONTH *Eremophila muelleriana*

Carmel Addlem won the raffle (again!) and chose *Eremophila muelleriana* as the plant of the month. *E. muelleriana*, the Round-leaf Eremophila, is a small, open shrub to 1m with quite hairy branches. It is

found on the granitic soils north and east of Geraldton, Western Australia. The flowers range from deep purple, to a reddish violet, often with a lighter spotted throat.



***Eremophila muelleriana* – photo Westflora**

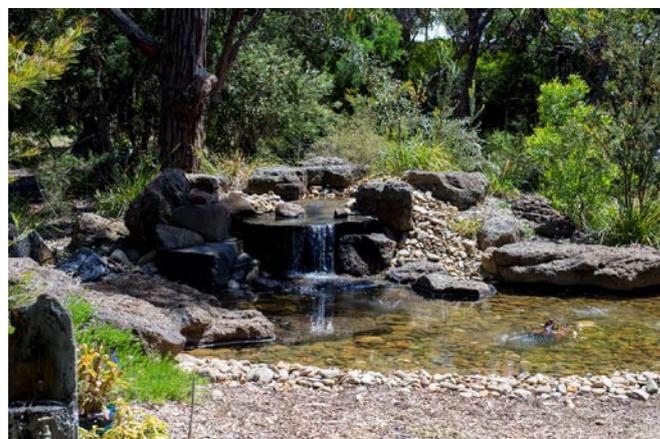
GARDEN VISITS

Anglesea

Following David Radbourne's talk at the November meeting, about 20 members met at Bill and Olivia Clarke's Anglesea home, to meet with David and see, first hand, three of the gardens he has built.

The first was a few doors up from Bill and Olivia's, a very interesting house with curved corrugated iron rooves, and large, structural and architectural steel beams. The property is on a steep slope and David constructed a meandering, rocky creek bed to carry water from front to back. This was landscaped with a mix of indigenous, native and exotic plants and David's signature large rocks.

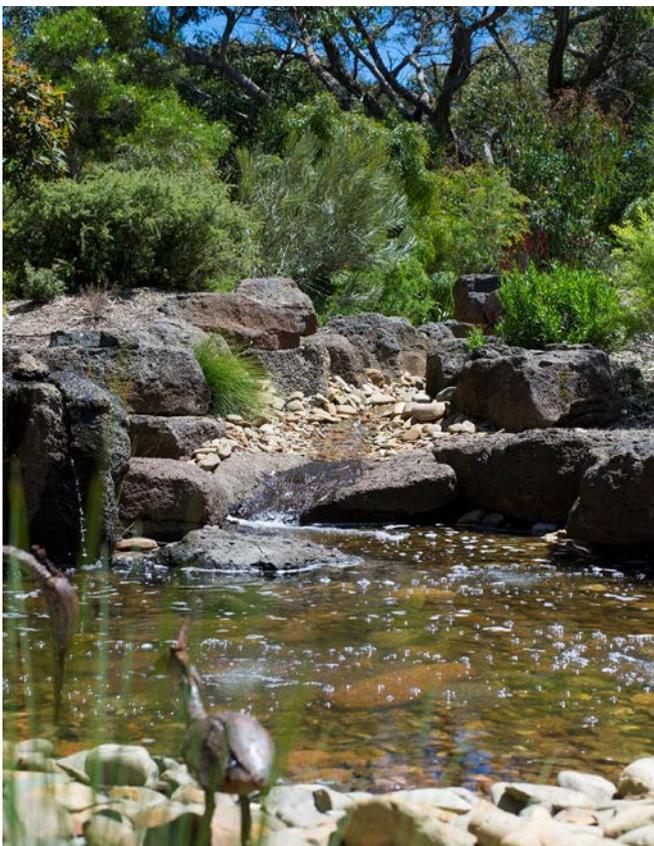
The next property, at the other end of the street, featured a huge pond, and rocky cascade amid mostly native and indigenous garden plants.



The amazing water feature/pond

We followed these visits with a wonderful BBQ lunch in Bill and Olivia's stunning garden. David's landscaping here is simply breathtaking. There are three large ponds connected by a rocky creek bed

which meanders from the level of the house to the bottom of the garden. Water flows along the bed, over cascades, ending in a large pond at the bottom of the garden, where white-faced herons and crimson rosellas bathed.



The 'bottom pond' at Bill and Olivia's

All the members enjoyed a wonderful day, and we thank Bill, Olivia and David for their hospitality.

BREAK-UP BBQ

About 25 members gathered at Serendip Sanctuary near Lara, for the end of year/Christmas break-up BBQ. It was a lovely day and the facilities were great, with covered seating area and a rustic wood-fired BBQ.



Di and Phil Royce enjoying the day

There was plenty of food, drink and conversation, with a walk around the enclosures, bird-hides and wetlands for the more energetic.

THANKYOU

As editor of 'The Correa Mail', I would like to thank those members who have supported me, and you, by providing content for your newsletter. In particular, my thanks go to:

Roger Wileman, who has contributed an article for almost every edition this year, and continues to provide lots of great photos for the Facebook page.

Tony Cavanagh, who for many years had contributed articles of unusual nature and of great interest.

Matt and Nicole Leach, who continue to produce an amazing array of photographs for the Facebook page, and a number of most interesting articles for the newsletter. Matt also provides me with a list of the flowers he brings to each meeting, which makes my job so much easier.

Phil Royce, who has contributed to 'The Correa Mail' with a number of article and for his assistance with production of the newsletter.

Frank Scheelings, who has taken notes in my absence, (even if it did get him into trouble). In this way 'The Correa Mail' can continue to be produced in a manner of which I am very proud.

And so my seventh year as editor comes to an end. From Penny and I, to all the members, please have a happy and joyous Christmas. No matter what Christmas means to you, or how you choose to celebrate, please stay safe, eat too much, drink just enough and be happy. We hope to see you all in 2017.

