



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 337 – May 2018

Western Australian Wanderings Roger Wileman

Our speaker at the April meeting was our own Roger Wileman who showed us an amazing collection of photos from his latest trip to Western Australia. Roger has been visiting WA regularly since 1969, and his knack of finding rare or unusual plants was highlighted in this talk.

Roger's sister has a large property at Gorge Rock, near Corrigin, about 300km east-south-east of Perth. She has asked Roger to 'mind the farm' while she took a holiday, and he was happy to oblige. So for part of this trip he had a home base, and he put it to good use, driving on every road and track in the area in search of plants. Sheila joined him after his sister returned and they explored the south-west, then up to Uluru and home.

Roger noticed in his concentrated travels around Gorge Rock how the plants in flower in an area were different when he returned in as little as two weeks. I can't attempt to show you all of Roger's photos or even mention all the plants he showed us, so here is a potted version of some of the plants and stories which took my fancy.

The first plants he showed us were bluebushes, *Maireana* spp., including *M. erioclada* which has attractive red bracts rather than flowers. It is one of 60 species of *Maireana* in Australia.



***Maireana erioclada* – Ruby Bluebush**

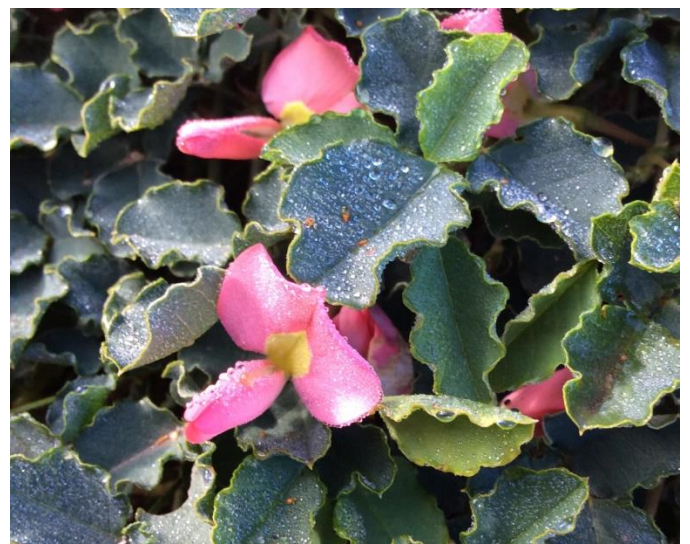
There followed some wonderful photos of *Pomaderris*, *Grevillea*, *Eucalyptus*, *Hakea*, *Drosera* and *Clectasia* in every imaginable form and colour.

One of the more interesting groups of plants Roger showed us was the *Leschenaultias* at Lake King. The wildflowers here are some of the most spectacular Roger has seen and the variations on colour of *L. formosa* struck Roger as particularly interesting. It is a small rounded plant with, usually bright, deep red flowers. But here were almost infinite variations on the theme. Some were red with yellow centres, some salmon pink with cream centres, others were pure red.



One of the unusual *Leschenaultias* at Lake King

Roger found a *Kennedia prostrata*, the familiar Running Postman on his sister's property. There was just one plant, perhaps the only one in the world, as it has baby pink flowers.



There were wonderful photos of unusual *Calathamnos* and *Chamelaucium* and many beautiful spider orchids.

Perhaps one of the most beautiful plants Roger showed us was *Boronia capitata*. One can only hope that one this beauty will be available in cultivation.



Boronia capitata

Roger met up with Robyn Campbell, who he describes as knowing more about native plants than anyone he has ever met. She was instrumental in saving *Grevillea scarpigera* from extinction. (See Roger's article in the March, 2018 *Correa Mail*). Robyn invited Roger to inspect a tract of 250Ha of virgin bush in the middle of a large station – land which has never been grazed, cleared or burned – and never will be.



The soil types varied within the 250 Ha and the plant communities varied accordingly. Roger said that many of the plants in this tract of land were things he had never seen before.



One of these unknown plants was found in areas which had been burnt a year or so back. Most were white, but some had a tinge of pink. Roger thinks they may be *Lasiopetalum* or *Tetratheca*, but any suggestions would be gratefully accepted.



I know I have not done justice to Roger's talk here, and if you missed it, you missed a great night. But, Roger will be back with Part II in June, so you have an opportunity to catch more of Roger's great photos and funny anecdotes.

ON THE TABLE

with Matt Baars

The plant table this month was a riot of *Correas*. Among the many specimens were :-

- *Correa reflexa* ' Dusky Bells' – an oldie, but a goody with deep pink flowers.
- *Correa* 'Katie Beck' another 'older' cultivar with deep pink flowers.
- *Correa* 'Pink Mist' another *C. reflexa* cultivar with masses of baby pink flowers.



Correa alba x ?

- *Correa pulchella* 'Maja' which has red flowers.
- *Correa alba* (in various forms) with white star flowers.
- *Correa backhousia* has long, yellowish flowers and deep green leaves which are ginger/brown and hairy beneath.
- *Correa* 'Redex', yet another stalwart which has a small leaf and very deep pink flowers.
- *Correa* 'Fat Bastard', with huge red and yellow flowers, Obviously, this one created much ribald comment, despite warnings to the contrary from Matt ☺.

There were also a number of unknown hybrids which have popped up in members' gardens. *Correas* appear to be quite promiscuous, and are a must have plant to give colour to a winter garden.

Acacia iteaphylla – The Flinders Ranges wattle, is a large shrub with a (usually) soft, weeping habit and attractive, pale yellow flowers. We had two specimens on show one the typical plant and one with an upright habit.

There were a few *Eremophilas* on show with *E. oppositifolia* creating discussion as usual. It has lovely pink/purple flowers but does not have opposite leaves as its name suggests. *E. maculata* in all its varying forms and colours is a popular plant, and rightly so. *E. maculata aurea* is a vigorous low-growing plant with deep yellow flowers. *E. pterocarpa* is an attractive small shrub with silvery grey/green foliage and deep pink flowers. *E. cuneifolia* is a small shrub with large

purple and pink flowers – surely one of the most beautiful *Eremophilas*.



Eremophila cuneifolia

Other specimens of interest were *Ptilotus obovata* – Silvertails, with silvery foliage and white and purple flowers and *Ptilotus exaltatus* – Mulla Mulla, with large purple, feathery flowers. *Thomasia quercifolia* is a small shrub called the Oak-leaf Thomasia for the shape of its foliage. Flowers are pink/mauve with deep red centres.

Siegfriedia darwinioides is an interesting plant with an even more interesting name. It is a small shrub from coastal Western Australia between Esperance and Albany.



Siegfriedia darwinioides – Photo: APS Yarra Yarra

It has dark green leaves and compact and complex yellow flowers for much of the year. The stamens are concealed within the flower which, in a very imaginative way, gives rise to its generic name, *Siegfriedia*. Siegfried was a hero of Norse mythology, the dragon-slaying son of the King and Queen of the Netherlands. He was said to have possessed the 'Tarnkappe', a cap (or in some stories a cloak) which rendered him invisible. Siegfried's invisibility is likened, with some imagination, to the concealed stamens of the plant, hence *Siegfriedia*. It must have been a quiet day in the botany department that day. ☺

PLANT OF THE MONTH - *Hakea laurina*

by Matt Leach

Hakea laurina or the Pincushion Hakea is a medium to tall shrub reaching perhaps 8m x 6m. It is common in local parks and council plantings.

Young growth is rusty coloured and hairy but mature leaves are green or bluish green, oblong, about 15cm long x 2.5cm wide. Flowers are seen in March through to August, but usually around April in the Geelong area. The flowers are red and cream ageing to all red and are the size and shape a golf ball, 2-3cm. Fruit capsules measuring 2cm x 1.5cm are somewhat globular with a short beak.



This Hakea is one of the best and most popular plants in cultivation, and was introduced into England in 1830. It is a very attractive plant but can be very variable in its habit. In nature it is found on the southern sand-plains in southern Western Australia.

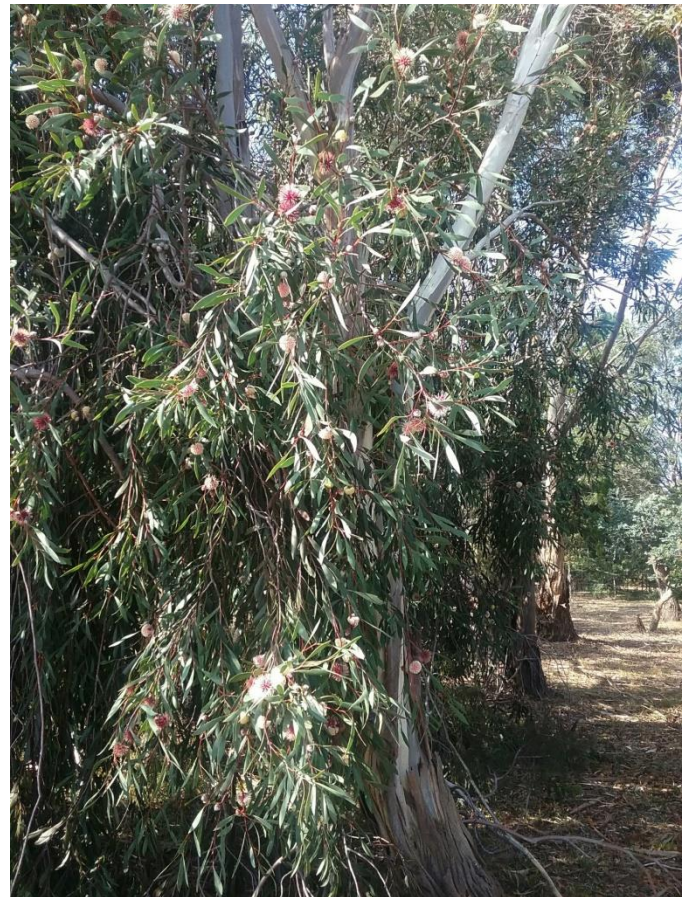
In cultivation it prefers a somewhat an open site with plenty of sunshine, but tolerates some shade. It is best grown in southern temperate to subtropical areas. The

soil it prefers is well drained and acidic but it will tolerate fairly high alkaline soils. Plants are hardy to frost but flower buds can be damaged. In the Geelong area, the flower buds are finished by the time frosts come around.

H. laurina can be pruned and withstands regular pruning. It is a useful plant for forestry, agriculture, shelter trees or screening. Plants can grow quickly but may grow too quickly. The growing canopy may be too heaving for the young root system, and therefore may fall over in strong winds when the ground is water logged. It is a hardy plant in coastal areas and can tolerate salty winds and lots of salt exposure.

Flowering plants are a haven for birds and insects, with the flowers having copious amounts of nectar.

Propagation is from seed, which usually begins to germinate in 20 – 40 days after sowing. Cuttings of some selected forms can be taken, with variable results.



There are many forms of *H. laurina*. A good one for suburban gardens is 'Mini-pini', a dwarf form up to 1m, with a dense habit. However, if you grow this plant for its flowers you may be disappointed. Because of its size and habit, the flowers are somewhat hidden inside the foliage and flowering can be minimal as it is quite slow-growing, therefore has fewer leaf nodes to produce

flower buds. *Hakea laurina* which has been cultivated in areas around bushland can become naturalized. Around Anglesea and Lorne, this plant can be seen growing in reserves and national parks.

The plant which was chosen as 'Flower of the Month' was a seedling from a group of *Hakea laurina* planted at Inverleigh over 40 years ago. They have since died. This seedling is 4 m high and has a slightly pendulous habit. I'm not sure of the age of this plant, but it could be around 15 years of age. Many seedling plants of this hakea have been pulled out over the years.

PLANT SALE

21st April

Our plant sale was a great success once again. The day turned out fine and sunny and big crowds came through the gate in the morning. We asked each one if they had attended previously, and, if not, how they heard of the sale. 90% said 'Internet' or 'Highway Signs.' The remainder were 'word of mouth'. Perhaps this is a pointer to our advertising for next year?



Mike from Otway Greening

All the growers reported good sales on the day, and all expressed a wish to come again next year. So a big thank you to our growers :-

The Plant Hut – Glenmaggie
Otway Greening – Penny Royal
Sun Valley Nursery – Langwarrin
Mostly Aussie Nursery – Dunkeld
Chris Fletcher – Yarra Glen
Friends of Melton BG – Melton
Melaleuca Nursery - Inverloch
Ironstone Park – Heathcote
Vaughan's Australian Plants - Pomonal
Special Effects Nursery - Colac

The plant display manned and arranged by Matt and Nicole Leach was amazing, and attracted a lot of attention. Quite a few of the growers said it contributed to their sales in a big way



Matt and Nicole's fabulous flower table

To all the members who were responsible for the planning, set-up and pack-up and who worked on the day to ensure a success ... Thank you! And, of course, we are ever grateful to Arthur and Linda for their very generous use of Wirrawilla.

ALLOCASUARINA TORULOSA: An interesting bonsai specimen.

By Bruce McGinness

Some *Allocasuarina torulosa* seeds were germinated in a 125mm squat pot in February 2015 and left in the pot to grow. I noticed that the bases of the stems had formed interesting swellings which would look good as a bonsai specimen. The plants were transferred into a ceramic bonsai pot in February 2017 with pleasing results so far.



The base has the typical corky bark texture of an *A. torulosa* tree and should, hopefully, get more 'gnarly' with age. They will need regular trimming to keep them as a bonsai specimen and of course regular watering and fertilising.



FUTURE MEETINGS

15th May Our speaker will be Chris Long, the President of APS Victoria, who will talk to us about 'Garden Diversity'.

19th June Roger and Sheila Western
Australian Wanderings Part ii

17th July AGM

CALLING ALL KEEN PHOTOGRAPHERS!

The Friends of Kevin Hoffman Walk are conducting an amateur photo competition along the walk. The competition is open to all ages and abilities. There are four categories into which you can submit your photos:

- Flowers and plants
- Wild animals, including insects, reptiles and birds
- The scenery along the Kevin Hoffman Walk
- People, pets and activities along the walk

Please note that you must have the person/people's permission to submit the photograph for the competition.

You must also be able to verify where on the walk your photo(s) were taken, so take a wider shot where you took that macro, just to show us the location. This won't count in your photo allocation.

Submit only digital photos (no watermarks or sneaky photoshopping), over 800kb in size. There is a maximum of 4 photos per person that can be submitted over all categories. Email us at ...

friendsofkevinhoffmanwalk@outlook.com

for an entry form, then submit your photos and completed form to the same address.

The 12 winning photos, as voted by the Friends of Kevin Hoffman Walk committee, will be printed in a 2019 Kevin Hoffman Walk fundraiser calendar. The calendar will be available to purchase later this year. Entries close on July 8th, which gives you plenty of time. So, happy snapping down at the walk!

CORREA MAIL EDITOR

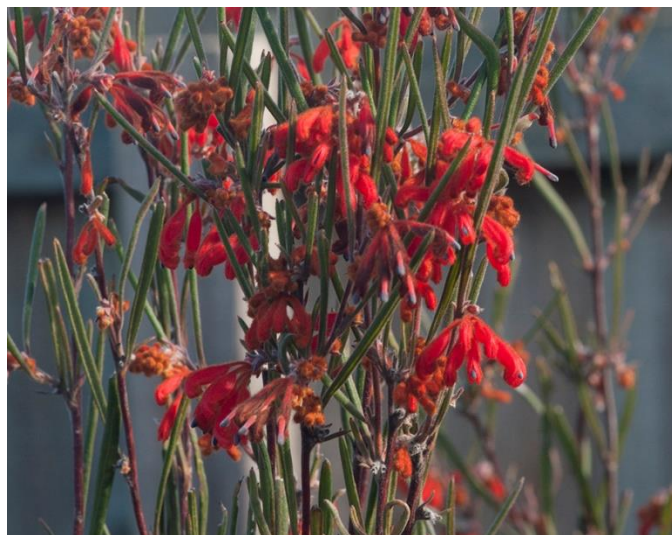
I am now in my tenth year as editor of the Correa Mail. I'm proud of the magazine, and I'm grateful for the feedback – all positive – from members.

However, I'd like to step back and let someone else add their style to the publication. Please give some thought to taking on the job. I'll happily provide you with templates and instructions as to how I have done it. Or, you can start from scratch and make it your own.

And, hopefully, you'll have better luck than me in getting members to contribute articles. ☺

I'd love to hear from you if you'd like to accept the challenge ☺

GRATUITOUS PAGE FILLER



This is *Grevillea bronwenae*, a grafted grevillea from my garden. It grows to about 1.8 metres and is covered in vivid orange/red flowers in Winter and Spring. Native to the south west of Western Australia it is a striking addition to a winter garden.

President: Bruce McGinness – brucesm@gmail.com

Treasurer: Frank Scheelings – ftscheelings@gmail.com

Australian Plants Society, Geelong: P.O.Box 2012, Geelong . 3220

Secretary: Phil Royce: phil.i.royce@gmail.com

Editor: Ade Foster – adefoster@internode.on.net

Website: www.apsgeelong.org