



# Correa Mail

Newsletter No 346 – May, 2019

## APRIL MEETING

Dean Nicolle - "Eucalypts"

Our speaker at the April meeting was Dr. Dean Nicolle, Australian botanist, arborist and ecologist. Dean has written many books on the subject of Eucalypts and is widely recognised as the leading authority on the group. 'Eucalypts' is the term for a group of plants of three genera – *Eucalyptus*, *Corymbia* and *Angophora*.



Dr. Dean Nicolle OAM – Photo courtesy ABC Adelaide

Dean's interest in plants, and particularly Eucalypts, began at a very early age and his parents would take him around the nurseries where Dean would buy any new or unusual specimens to plant in his parents' 10 acre property on the outskirts of Adelaide.

Dean founded the Currency Creek Arboretum in 1992 and the first seeds of eighteen species were planted in 1993. The site now has some 8,000 trees, about 95% of all species and sub-species represented.

Dean's talk focussed on twenty species of ornamental Eucalypts which he considers to be among the best for gardens on southern Australia. Not all will grow well on every site, but some of them will, and all are worth trying. He divided these into two groups – mallees and trees.

Dean makes the distinction based on the plant's use of the lignotuber, the woody swelling at ground level, often called the 'mallee root'. Mallees will re-sprout only from this lignotuber after fire or severe pruning. Over 500 of the Eucalypt species are classified as mallees. Trees may also have the lignotuber, but after fire will re-sprout from epicorms on the trunk and branches.

Here are Dean's top 10 mallees ...

### 1. *E. websteriana* – Heart-leaved Mallee

This mallee grows from 1.5 – 3m and features a rich red 'minniritchi' bark. This means the bark peels from the trunk but remains attached, giving a peeling paint effect. Flowers are pale yellow, and occur in winter and spring. Very drought tolerant and grows well in a large container.

### 2. *E. erythronema subsp. erythronema* – Red-flowered Mallee

A taller mallee from 3 – 5m featuring smooth bark which ages to a deep red/purple, then peels to a podery white. As the name suggests, flowers are red appearing in late spring and summer. Birds find them very attractive.



*Eucalyptus erythronema subsp. erythronema*

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**3. *E. priessiana* subsp. *lobata* – Lobe-fruited Mallee**

A mallee of 1 – 2.5m often with a rounded canopy and smooth creamy or brown bark. Large lemon yellow flowers appear in late winter and spring. A great plant for coastal gardens.

**4. *E. synandra* – Jinglymia Mallee**

A multi-stemmed mallee from 2.5 – 5m with a sparse or wispy canopy. Slender flowers in groups tend to hang like tiny lanterns opening cream/white and aging to pink. The open canopy allows for other plants to grow beneath it.



***E. synandra* flowers**

**5. *E. pimpiniana* – Pimpin Mallee**

A shrub mallee which grows from 0.5 to 2 metres, with a spreading, moderately dense crown. This is a great plant for a low screening application. Masses of yellow flowers in spring, winter and autumn are bird attracting.

**6. *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* – Rose of the West**

Sometimes referred to by the aboriginal name Mottlecah, this is a large shrub or mallee with an unusual stem and leaf architecture. Grey green foliage contrasts sharply with the huge, deep red flowers. It is a wonderful specimen plant.



**7. *E. caesia***

This is a tall, open mallee from 4 – 8 metres in cultivation with branches drooping at the tips in *subsp caesia* and all the way to the ground in *subsp magna*. Flowers are coral pink to red and occur in autumn and winter. A wonderfully ornamental tree often sold as 'Silver Princess'.

**8. *E. sinuosa* – Octopus Mallee**

This is one of the 'yate' species and is a dense crowned large shrub or mallee from 2 – 4m. Crown is usually rounded and the bark is pale grey aging to orange/tan. Flower buds appear on long group stalks with their bases fused together, and the long often curling caps give rise to the common name. Flowers are large and yellow/green appearing mostly in summer.



**Buds and flowers of *E. sinuosa* – Octopus Mallee**

**9. *E. kruseana* – Book-leafed Mallee.**

This is a highly ornamental shrub or mallee species which grows from 2 – 4m. The leaves, which lack stems are arranged in opposite pairs and are closely spaced along the branches, giving rise to the common name. The flowers are in clumps and are greenish yellow, appearing in autumn and winter. A great plant for a small garden.

**10. *E. angustissima* – Broombush Mallee**

This one is a shrub or mallee from 1.5 – 5m the crown is somewhat rounded and quite dense. The leaves are held upright and are very narrow, and the flowers are produced close to the branchlets. This gives the plant a distinct Hakea-like appearance. It is a good screening plant which grows well in coastal areas.

**PLANT TABLE**

**with Dean Nicolle**

The plant table was mostly Eucalypts, mostly thanks to Matt Leach who brought along a great variety. Dean consented to talk us through the specimens on show



but expressed a lack of knowledge of the non-Eucalypt species which he referred to as 'weeds' 😊

Among the specimens on show were *Eucalytus serraensis*, *polybractea*, *socialis*, *macrocarpa*, *spathulata*, *occidentalis*, *grossa*, *latens* and *Corymbia maculata*.

To spare Matt the onerous task of writing the Plant of the Month article yet again, the raffle winner – me – chose a Hakea brought along by Carmel Addlem.

#### PLANT OF THE MONTH – *Hakea drupacea*

*Ade won the raffle and selected Hakea drupacea, which was brought along by Carmel Addlem, as 'Plant of the Month'. Carmel writes ...*

*Hakea drupacea*, commonly known as sweet scented hakea, is a tree or shrub which is native to south west Western Australia. This is one of the few plants that is flowering in my garden at the moment. It relies purely on rainfall (or lack of at the moment) and is growing really well. It is about 2.2m tall and 2.7m across. I just love the small white flowers with their pink tips. It was planted from tube stock a few years ago.



*Hakea drupacea*, commonly known as sweet scented hakea, is a tree or shrub which is native to south west Western Australia. It is an upright rounded shrub growing to 1–4 m tall. Smaller branches are hairy. The smooth needle-shaped leaves grow alternately ending in a sharp point. The leaf may divide into 2-8 segments.

The inflorescences are short racemes of sweetly scented white or cream flowers tipped with pink or brownish pollen. The flowers are abundant and appear in the outer leaf axils from March to June. The woody egg-shaped fruit are 20–25 mm long and 15–19 mm wide. The fruit surface is smooth with a few black pustules, ending with two prominent horns.



Sweet-scented hakea occurs mainly as a coastal species, between Albany and east of Cape Arid and on the Recherche Archipelago Islands. The species is naturalised in New Zealand, coastal Victoria and in South Africa, where it is known as 'soet hakea', meaning "sweet hakea". It occurs in open heath or low shrubland areas with granite hillsides occasionally quartzite areas or coastal limestone cliffs.

#### ANNUAL PLANT SALE

April 27<sup>th</sup>

Our plant sale was a great success despite cold and windy day. We kicked off early this year and there was a steady stream through the gates until around 2.00 pm when it quietened down considerably.



All the growers reported good sales and all were smiling at the end of the day.



The Flower Table created a great deal of interest and discussion, thanks to Matt and Nicole, who also kept the kids entertained.



The canteen did a roaring trade, and more than one trip was made to get more supplies for the BBQ. Thank you to all those who prepared, cooked and sold the various goodies on offer.

A huge 'Thank You' once again goes to Arthur and Linda for allowing us to invade them for another year. We really appreciate their kindness and generosity.



And finally, we say thank you to our growers ....

- Sunvalley Plants - Langwarrin
- Fletchers Nursery - Yarra Glen
- Mostly Aussie Nursery - Dunkeld
- Ironstone Park - Heathcote
- Melaleuca Nursery - Inverloch
- Otway Greening - Pennyroyal
- Special Effects Nursery - Colac
- Friends of Melton Botanic Gardens
- Vaughan's Australian Plants – Pomonal

See you all next year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May Meeting:** Roger Wileman – Carnivorous Plants.

Our scheduled May speaker is unavailable, so Roger has agreed to move his talk forward a month. This is fascinating subject presented by our own very knowledgeable Roger Wileman.

## AROUND THE GROUNDS:

**4<sup>th</sup> May** - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale, from 10 am to 3.30 pm, at Seawinds in Arthurs Seat State Park, Purves Rd, Arthurs Seat. For further details call 0428 284 974.

APS Melton  
& Bacchus  
Marsh Inc.



## NATIVE PLANT SALE

at St Andrew's Uniting  
Church, Bacchus Marsh  
(MEL333 J6)

**Saturday 11th May 2019**

**9am-1pm**

**FEATURING HAKEAS,  
dwarf EUCALYPTS  
EREMOPHILAS**

Info:

[apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com](mailto:apsmeltonbacchus@gmail.com)

**THE FIRST AUSTRALIANS TOUR:** by Bruce McGinness  
Geelong Botanic Gardens Saturday June 15th

APS Geelong is hosting the June APS Victoria quarterly meeting at the Geelong Botanic Gardens. As part of this meeting we have organised a walk to look at the plants growing in the garden used by the Wathaurong people.

Liz Bennetto a volunteer guide from the Friends of Geelong Botanic Gardens will lead this walk. Liz will explain how the plants were used for food, fibre,



medicine, weapons, instruments, ceremonies and more. The in-depth Aboriginal knowledge of the plants growing around them is undeniable with about seventy percent of their food coming from plants.

I attended a presentation given by Liz on the use of indigenous plants at the GBG Friends latest AGM and she is an enthusiastic knowledgeable speaker. As a former teacher and librarian Liz has excellent communication skills and can tailor a talk for the particular interests of a group. Keeping up with the latest research provides new material to present. As an example, recently discovered Aboriginal fishing remains near Warnambool could possibly be 120,000 years old. This find by archaeologists of charcoal and shellfish remains may push the time the Aboriginal people have lived on this land well beyond the accepted 60,000 years. Liz has visited this site and I would be interested listen to her insights on the discovery.

The APS Victoria quarterly meeting should finish by 12.30pm so come along and mingle with other APS members from around the state and have a coffee and cake at the Geelong Botanic Gardens Café.

We will meet at the entrance of the garden at 2pm for the tour. Cost will be \$4.00 per person.

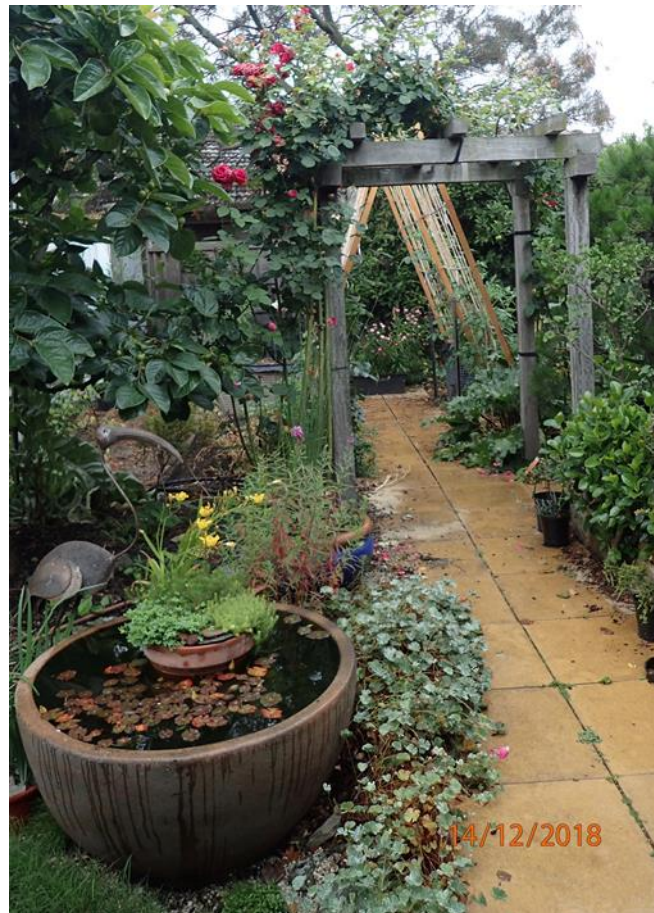


The information for this story been taken from an article written by Luke Voogt published in the Geelong Indy 08/04/2019

### FUN WITH WATER PLANTS by Bruce McGinness

I have a small garden and having a number of pots with water allows me to grow a diverse range of water plants. The characteristics of water plants allow you to plant them close together and with a bit of judicious pruning they can all get along. I also have created a few low spots in the garden that accumulate some moisture and allow plants that require more water to grow.

I am enjoying growing a range of native Myriophylluims and Marsilea.



The *Marsilea* growing in the ground in this photo is *M. drummodii*. This plant can become weedy if given enough moisture to spread but will generally restrict itself to the moist spots and not spread beyond that. *Marsilea* are considered to be an aquatic fern which produce sporocarps which are edible if prepared correctly. If not prepared correctly an enzyme which destroys thiamine leads to brain damage. *M. drummondii* was most likely the plant that Burke and Wills got into strife with.



The marsilea growing in the pot in this photo is *M. costulifera*, I have always known it as *M. angustifolia*



but it looks like further research has confined *M.angustifolia* to northern Australia. I have found this to be a well-behaved plant for a small pond and can be grown as a floating aquatic or as a pot plant sitting in water with a fairly erect habit.



*Marsilea crenata* is a soft hairy leaved plant that is growing in a submerged pot but in tends to jump out of that and fill up the bowl. This is easily managed in a small pond by cutting it back as required



*Marsilea mutica* has attractive markings on the leaves, it is a native of Victoria that has unfortunately become a weed in Tasmania. At the last ANPSA conference in Hobart a speaker on ferns showed a photograph of a wetland choked with *M. mutica*. I am growing it in a shallow pot in the front garden under a tree where it seems to be thriving.

*Myriophyllum* are good pond plants with diverse leaf shapes. I am growing four species, but the two standout species are *M. variifolium* and *M. papilosum* var. red stem. These are both compact plants with fine lush foliage. The red stems of *M. papilosum* contrast well with the bright green of *M. variifolium* when grown together. They will grow in a wet situation and have a fairly erect habit as in the photograph below or in deeper water where the stems will float out and cover the surface of the pond.



All these water plants need to be trimmed regularly so if anyone wants to give these plants a try let me know and I will share some material for them to try in their gardens.

#### NEUTROG FERTILISER AVAILABLE

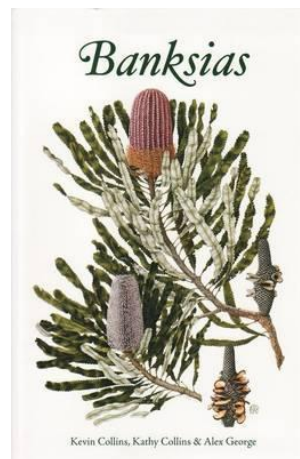
Some time ago we offered members a great deal on Neutrog 'Bush Tucker', a great fertiliser for native plants. We had to buy a tonne to get the deal and we still have a few bags left. 20kg for \$30 is a real bargain. Email Phil Royce if you are interested and he can bring it to the next meeting, or you can arrange to collect it from Phil ...

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

#### BANKSIAS - An invitation from Colac APS

The President of the Colac APS group has invited our members to hear a talk by Kevin Collins on Banksias. Kevin, and his wife, Kathy, have the only complete collection of Banksias growing in their garden at Mount Barker in Western Australia.

Visitors are welcome to listen to Kevin Collins speak on Banksias on Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm at the Colac Community Center in Miller Street, just to the west of the intersection with Hart Street.



I think I wrote a short article about this collection in the Correa Mail some years ago. Kevin cowrite the book 'Banksias' with wife Kathy and Alex George. From all reports, he is a fascinating and entertaining speaker.