



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 352 – November, 2019

OCTOBER MEETING.

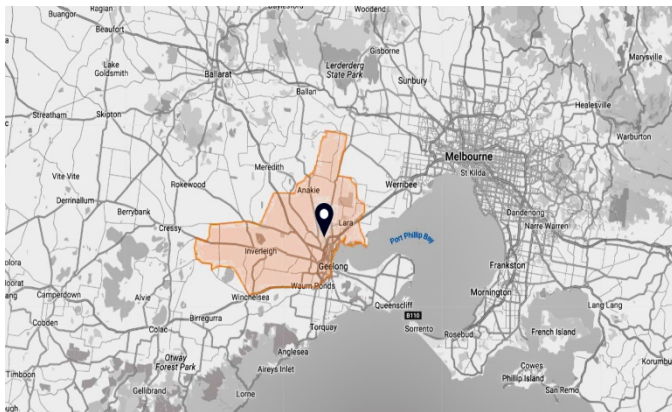
Tim Trottier

Our speaker this month was Tim Trottier from the Geelong Landcare Network, who spoke to us about some of the projects of the local Landcare groups.

Tim came to Australia from the United States seven years ago. He was a fire-fighter, working as a paramedic and in emergency rescue. He also worked as an arborist. In Australia he obtained a Diploma in Conservation and Land Management from The Gordon. He now works in regenerative agriculture at Raven's Creek Farm in Moriac, and three days a week as Co-ordinator for the Geelong Landcare Network.

Regenerative agriculture/landscape management can be defined as "The application of techniques which seek to restore landscape function and deliver outcomes that include sustainable production, an improved natural resource base, healthy nutrient cycling, increased biodiversity and resilience to change."

Landcare came into being in 1986 as a joint effort from then Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands, Joan Kirner and Victorian Farmers' Federation President, Heather Mitchell. The first Landcare group was formed at St. Arnaud, and there are now about 600 groups across Victoria in 64 networks.



The Geelong Landcare Network's coverage

The Geelong Landcare Network has 8 groups: Corio Landcare Group, Avalon Landcare Group, Maude & District Landcare Group, Batesford, Fyansford & Stonehaven Group, Inverleigh & District Group, Barrabool Hills Group, Brisbane Ranges Group and Anakie Tree Group.

Some are more active than others, and all are seeking new membership from anyone who may be interested in their work.



Planting a 'biolink' in Dog Rocks Rd.

The groups take on a variety of tasks from weed and feral animal control to revegetation and reclamation of degraded land. In consultation with land owners, DELWP and the private sector, projects are targeted to meet the most pressing needs in an area.

Work is being done to create links between areas of woodland to make wildlife corridors, allowing animals to travel more easily between areas. Creeks and river banks are revegetated to control runoff and bank erosion. Wetlands are being replanted with grasses, shrubs and trees to recreate lost habitat for birds such as Brolgas.



Recreating wetland habitat at Buckley

Planting and direct seeding are done by group members, volunteers, TAFE and school groups with plants and seeds bought with grant monies.

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The land owners are turning over productive farmland to improve the environment not only for themselves, for the entire community, a very worthwhile result for all concerned.



Extensive plantings in the Barrabool Hills.

Work is done to collect seeds of indigenous plants from remaining areas of grassland and woodland, so that the proper provenance of the plants is maintained. However, seeds from the same species further north and south are also gathered. It is thought that these plants might be better suited to a changing climate, so ensuring that the grasslands and woodlands will continue into the future.

NEXT MEETING: November 19th

Our speaker for the November meeting is Trevor Edwards from La Trobe University who will be talking to us about the *Fabaceae*, the typical 'pea-flowered' plants of Australia.

PLANT TABLE with Frank Scheelings

Frank conducted this month's plant table. It was so loaded with specimens that only a small proportion could be discussed without us running into Wednesday morning.

Of all the *Eremophilas* on the table, four were given prominence. *E. nivea* is a large shrub with silky, pale grey/green foliage which contrasts beautifully with the mauve flowers. I think this plant should be grown for its foliage as much as for its flowers. *E. mirabilis* is a shrub to 2m with narrow green leaves. The flowers are quite spectacular with large colourful red-orange bracts and pale orange flowers with dark red spots. *E. mcdonnellii* is a low, variable shrub to 1m, with large, flattened purple flowers. The prostrate form of this plant can spread to over 5m. *E. cuneifolia* is a spreading shrub to about 1.5m. The leaves are quite small and close to the stems, so the bright pink and purple flowers are beautifully presented.



Eremophila cuneifolia

Melaleuca megacephala is an upright shrub from 1 – 3m. Its leaves are elliptical and shiny green, while the creamy yellow flowers are terminally presented in clusters.

Veronica perfoliata is a small shrub to 1m with long, arching branches. The leaves are clasped tightly to the stem and are similar in appearance to the juvenile foliage of some eucalypts. The flowers, presented in clusters in spikes on the ends of the branches are a deep purple/blue with up to 70 flowers on each spike.

Rhinocarpus pinifolius, or Wedding Bush, is a medium shrub with soft pine-like foliage and masses of white flowers in spring. The star-shaped, white flowers also make good cut flowers. It naturally occurs in heath and woodland from Queensland to Tasmanian coastal sites. Tina told us that it is called Wedding Bush because its scent and colour makes it a favourite in wedding bouquets. She reminded Frank, (rather forcefully, I thought) that it appeared in her own wedding bouquet!



***Rhinocarpus pinifolius* – Photo by Allan Carr**

Two banksias were discussed. *Banksia blechnifolia* is a prostrate shrub with long, upright, serrated foliage and large red/brown inflorescences. *Banksia solandri* is a shrub to 4m from the Stirling Ranges in Western

Australia. The specimen on the table was dwarf form found by Roger Wileman and growing in Ade's garden.



Dwarf form of *Banksia solandri*

Calytrix tetragona – Common Fringe-myrtle is a small shrub, although it may reach three metres in parts of its distribution. Our specimen, from Frank's garden, showed profuse pink flowers.

There was a *Myoporum* which created some discussion. It was tentatively identified as *Myoporum viscosum*, Sticky Boobiala, although it wasn't particularly sticky, and had smooth, dark green glossy leaves. *M. viscosum* appears to be a name incorrectly applied to *Myoporum petiolarum*, but that doesn't really help with the ID. Matt has a *Myoporum* in his garden which he believes to be a hybrid between *M. petiolarum* (*viscosum*) and *M. bateae*, an uncommon shrub from NSW. Matt's specimen is a small tree with open, weeping branches and masses of small white flowers.

Two *Pultenaeas* were present. *P. daphnoides* – Large-leaf Bitter-pea - is an erect, medium shrub from eastern and southern Australia with pointed wedge-shaped leaves and terminal yellow pea flowers. *P. pedunculata* – Matted Bush-pea - is a prostrate spreading shrub with small dark green foliage and masses of small, red and yellow pea flowers.



***Pultenaea pedunculata* – Matted Bush-pea**

And, of course there were a number of *Grevilleas* on show. *Grevillea georgeana* is a very sharp and very

showy plant. The flowers are terminally presented, and upright and rich red-pink and white. *Grevillea crithmifolia* was represented by two specimens. One is a shrub to about two metres, the other a spreading prostrate plant. Both featured the rounded, white flowers. 'Caloundra Gem' is a shrub to 2m with numerous pink and yellow flowers from late winter to early summer.



***Grevillea crithmifolia* - prostrate**

PLANT OF THE MONTH – *Eremophila maculata*

by Peter Nuzum

I won the door prize, a fabulous native orchid donated by Bruce McGinness, and selected a rather spectacular for of Eremophila maculata, brought along by Peter Nuzum. Peter writes

Eremophila maculata is growing well in my garden and producing copious quantities of purple flowers. Apparently flower colour is quite variable it also comes in various shades of red or yellow. This plant is also called Spotted Emu Bush and Spotted Native Fuchsia due to the spots on the inside of the flower and its general shape.



In the wild, this plant grows throughout central Australia in all States in a range of soils from heavy clay to sandy soils and in low rainfall areas, which makes it eminently suitable for the heavy clay and desert-like

conditions here in Lara. It also enjoys full sun and is not frost-tender.

My plant is about 1.5 metres high and 3 metres across. It has been suggested that maybe I should consider pruning it after flowering and making it into a shapely bush but I tend to like the rugged look. So, I will decide after this flowering season.

I am told that propagation from seed is difficult but that cuttings of hardened, current season's growth strike readily. I will put that to the test in the near future. All-in-all, a wonderful bush as a filler in a sunny position.



THANKS FROM BALLARAT APS

Gladys Hastie

On Saturday October 19th the bus left Ballarat at 9.00am on an overcast, drizzly morning. The weather started to improve as we headed to Elaine where we stopped to partake of Devonshire Tea and a walk around the garden. With a bit of effort we managed to get loaded up and again on our way, a little late but not by too much.



Thomasia and Acacia in Matt's garden

Matt and Pam Baars were expecting us to arrive at 11am, (it is not quite true that I had invited myself to see this garden as Matt announced, I hope I had enquired nicely). It was 11.15am when we arrived and Matt was standing out the front with a big stick – no it

was not because we were late, but he was protecting his bees from us.

We found a small garden with lots of interesting plants. Some of our members were very surprised at the age some of these plants and trees and a lot of questions were asked. After digging up half of Matt's bluebells, off we went to Serendip. It was a beautiful day by now and everyone enjoyed their picnic lunch and a stroll down to see the birds.

At 2.00pm it was time to hop back on the bus and head for the Kevin Hoffman Walk. Matt Leach had said he would meet us there and give us a short history of the garden. Well, not only were we told the story of the garden but were escorted around the garden by Matt and Nicole Leach and Bev Hoffman. This was quite a surprise and greatly appreciated by everyone and it helped avoid some of the steps along the way. After many ooo's and aah's it was time to hop back on the bus and make our final visit before we headed for home.



Ballarat Group at Kevin Hoffman Walk
Photo courtesy Friends of Kevin Hoffman Walk

We stopped at a small area of the Brisbane Ranges where there were more oo's and aah's as there was quite a show of flowers and even some orchids were found. Time to move on - we arrived back in Ballarat at 5.30pm and we all enjoyed a lovely day.

Everyone sends a big thankyou to Matt and Pam, Matt and Nicole and Bev for making a very enjoyable day more enjoyable.

CHRISTMAS BREAK-UP BBQ

This year's Christmas function will be held early, on 30th November, at Ade and Penny's house, 8 Hazel Street, Belmont from 4.00 pm. It will be a BBQ dinner, and the club will provide meat, bread and wine. Please BYO drinks of any other variety, and your own plates and cutlery. Please also bring a salad or a desert to share with everyone. We hope that with the earlier date and lots of notice, we'll have a good turn-out on the day.

POMONAL WILDFLOWER SHOW.

The Pomonal Wildflower Show was on the weekend of 6th and 6th October, and some of our members attended. The Show is always well worth a visit, with amazing floral displays from local gardens, stalls, and arts and crafts displays. Sheila Deakin sent me a few photos from the weekend, which I have posted on our club Facebook page. Here are a couple.



SUPPER ROOM RECIPES

Supper time at the club meetings is a great time for a chat while sampling the delicious cakes, slices, scones and biscuits on offer. People have asked for recipes of some of the more popular dishes, so here goes ...

GLADYS'S LEMON MERINGUE PIE

Lemon Filling

Combine 150g sugar, 45g arrowroot and 1 1/2 cups water in saucepan and cook until thickened, add 1 1/2 tbsp. butter. Cool slightly, add 2 egg yolks beating well. Cook 2 minutes, then add 1 tbsp. grated

lemon rind & 1/2 cup lemon juice. When cool pour into tart cases.

Meringue

To add meringue beat 2 egg whites until stiff, add 75g sugar, a little at a time, beating between each addition. Pipe or spoon meringue on top of lemon mixture and place in oven at 190C until meringue is pale golden.

This lemon recipe makes quite a lot but freeze in small quantities for later use.

PENNY'S APRICOT LOAF

1 cup dried apricots, chopped
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon butter
1 cup sultanas
½ cup currants or ½ cup chopped nuts
1 teaspoon bi-carb soda

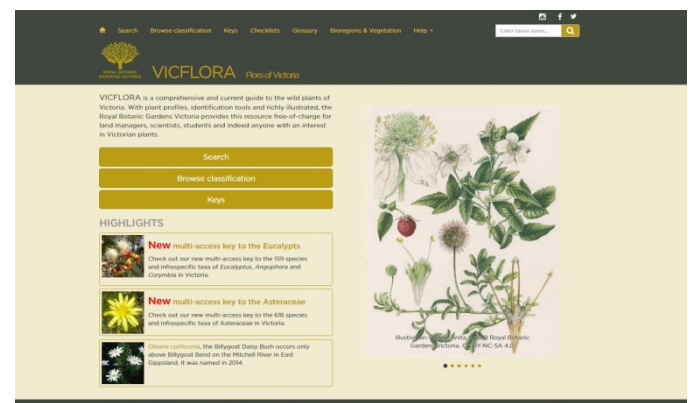
Mix all these, add 1 cup of boiling water and mix well. Add 2 cups plain flour, ½ teaspoon salt and 1 beaten egg.

Place into two greased loaf tins and bake at 350°F (175°C) for 50 - 60 minutes.

VICFLORA WEBSITE

While browsing the net for information about a plant I photographed at Anglesea, I found this rather wonderful website – VICFLORA – Flora of Victoria. Many of you may be familiar with it, but it was new to me. It's a searchable database of Victorian Flora provided by RBGV. You can search by Name, Occurrence status, Threat Status, Family, Bioregion, CMA and others. There are Keys to help identify plants, with great specific keys for Eucalyptus and the Astereaceae. For each species on the database there is an informative overview and great images. What a wonderful resource! Find it at ...

<https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/>



A VISIT TO MARANOA GARDENS. By Carmel Addlem

I hitched a ride with Bruce and Judith and was so glad that I did as I'm certain that I would have got lost. We arrived at the Gardens (my first visit) around 11.00 am and was met by Paul Birch who has had the pleasure of working as a horticulturalist at the gardens for many years.



We were given a brief history of the gardens before our small group was given a wonderful guided tour. There was an amazing range of flowers in bloom throughout the garden and it was lovely just wandering around taking in all the beauty and tranquillity. There was much laughter and fun had by all and the club now has a new measure for our plants - as seen by the photo - 1 ½ Dianas high.



Bruce, Judith and myself went and had a lovely Chinese lunch before heading to the Hawthorn Arts Centre where we were delighted to view the intricate botanical paintings and drawings by 12 local artists who had done an extremely good job on documenting a large range of florae of the Maranoa Gardens. This

garden is a must see if you are in area. It was a great day all round.



Some of the beautiful artwork by Margaret Castle

History of Maranoa Gardens

Maranoa Gardens was created in 1901 by John Watson who sought a private area where he could establish a wildflower garden. Watson purchased 3.5 acres in Balwyn and planted Australian and New Zealand native trees and shrubs.

Watson's Maranoa Gardens differed from other 20th Century garden designs which were instead modelled after European trends. In 1922 the gardens were obtained by the former City of Camberwell and by 1926, Maranoa Gardens opened to the public. The gardens' continual development was initiated by Ivo Hammet, botanist Arthur Swaby, Charles French, Earnest Lord and Frederick Chapman, while head gardener Mr R Bury tended to the gardens. By 1962, Maranoa Gardens had doubled in size and had expanded into the adjacent Beckett Park.

Maranoa Gardens is divided into various zones which take into consideration soil type, irrigation, geology and climate preferences. The seven zones include the cottage garden, rainforest, arid zone, arboretum and the Indigenous display. To the northern side is the dry sclerophyll forest which includes shrubs and smaller plants which favour a shady and dry environment, while on the eastern side of the garden is the temperate woodland/heathland area with low growing plants. There is also a rockery which was first built in 1986 and expanded a year later to cater for plants which typically don't thrive in Melbourne's climate. There are approximately 5,000 plants in the garden and the oldest plants in Maranoa date back to the early 1920s and include the *Angophora costata*, also known as a Smooth-barked Apple and the *Stenocarpus sinuatus* or Queensland Firewheel Tree. Maranoa Gardens is sustainably managed to minimise the use of water and toxic chemicals and encourages biodiversity without the 'disruption of natural systems.'

Recognised by the National Trust 'as an important part of Australian gardening history,' Maranoa Gardens has remained dedicated to its mission of demonstrating the importance of native botanicals for 115 years.