



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 375 - December, 2021

NOVEMBER MEETING

Welcome Back!

Our November Meeting was our first face to face meeting for some time. We tried a new format with members in attendance both at The Ballroom and via Zoom.

With Covid restricting numbers permitted in the meeting room, only ten members and a guest attended in person. And, with only four members joining us via Zoom, it was a very intimate meeting, but enjoyable nonetheless.

The meeting was a trial to see if we could successfully stream a speaker into the Ballroom via Zoom. Bruce and I sourced the necessary tech wizardry, and, at a couple of practice sessions, worked through issues of internet connectivity, sound quality and the interaction between our presenter and his audience. To our delight (and surprise?) the format worked remarkably well.

The Committee is looking at the possibility of having speakers from all over the country talk to us about their favourite topics without incurring the expenses involved with bringing them to Geelong. We think this is an exciting prospect and will keep you informed.

Our speaker at the November meeting was Associate Professor John Rayner. Here is a synopsis of this most interesting talk.

NATIVE PLANTS IN URBAN LANDSCAPES

Associate Professor John Rayner

John is a senior lecturer at Melbourne University Burnley Campus and spoke to us about his 'Woody Meadow' project, a new way of looking at urban landscape design.

John believes that Australian plants are seen in their worst light in public landscaping. They are low maintenance and functional but not really aesthetically pleasing. John's approach is for a more 'naturalistic' planting scheme using, mostly, Australian native plants. Many other countries have starting adopting similar approaches and provided some inspiration for John's designs.



A grassy woodland inspirational landscape

Naturalistic plantings are based on natural habitats where plants fit together as a community. While plants may be endemic, native or exotic, 'natural' plantings form the basis of the design. Heathlands occur all over the world – Greece, south-west USA, South Africa, Western Australia - and many of them form stunning displays of colour and form. Could they be replicated in some way in public landscapes?



One of John's urban 'woody meadows' in Melbourne

Fires are key to maintaining the health of heathlands with frequencies between 3 – 8 years. How could this be replicated in a local park? The alternative was rather severe coppicing which is used in agriculture and floriculture to great effect.

Research into plants which respond well to coppicing, are low maintenance and have low water use requirements was carried out. Scoria was used as a

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substrate as suburban soils are often excessively fertile and carry a huge seed-bank of weed species.

The plants used fitted into three basic categories:-

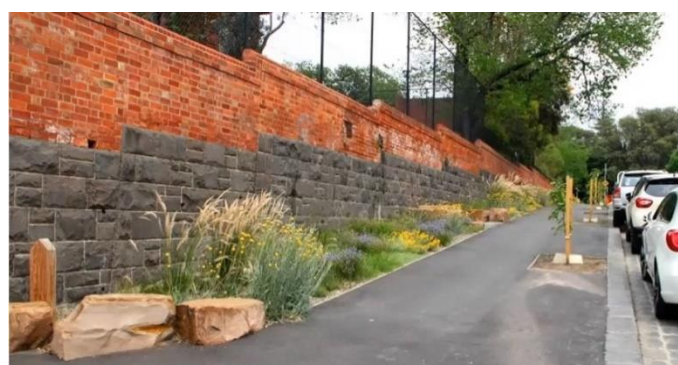
- Base Layer ... plants to 50cm, planted in high density.
- Bump Layer ... plants to 100cm, the main flowering plants planted in medium density.
- Emergent layer ... plants 150cm+, sporadically planted 'feature' plants.

All of the plants used respond well to coppicing and are chosen to offer colour in the garden in every season.



A mature 'woody meadow' in Birrarung Marr

John describes his 'woody meadows' as organised chaos. The plants are not in neat rows and planted in geometric patterns – chaos. But they are carefully chosen to suit the style of planting and so are quite organised.



A street landscape of John's design, inner Melbourne

The video of John's entire presentation can be found online, and I urge you all to watch this most interesting and engaging talk. You can find it at

<http://apsgeelong.org/webinars.html>

VIRTUAL PLANT TABLE.

We tried a duel Plant Table format at our November Meeting. We had some photos which we showed via the big screen in the ballroom and to our Zoom attendees. We also had our 'normal' Plant Table which we attempted to show via web-cam, with mixed success. Regretfully, I was so intent on trying to make the web-cam Plant Table work that I neglected to take notes. So, I have no recollection of the amazing array that appeared on the table. Apologies.

However, Matt Leach and Ade Foster provided some photos just in case no-one brought plants along, so I have a couple to reproduce here. Matt and Nicole visited Lederderg State Park and came home with a lovely collection of photos of the flowering plants from the area. Here are just a few ...



Caladenia congesta

Caladenia congesta – Black-tongue Caladenia, is a beautiful and uncommon orchid, captured nicely here. *Grevillea alpina* – the Mountain Grevillea is widespread and variable. It is a common parent of many of the smaller hybrids available from the nursery trade.



Grevillea alpina

Matt also had photos of a couple of other orchids, *Chiloglottis valida* - the common Bird-orchid and *Caladenia moschata* - the Musky Caladenia. Others included *Clematis aristata* - The Old Man's Beard, *Leucochrysum albicans* – Hoary Sunray, *Podolepis jaceoides* – the Showy Copper-wire Daisy, *Brachyscome basaltica* – Swamp Daisy, *Brachyscome multifida* – Cut-leaf Daisy, *Brunonia australis* – Blue Pin-cushions, *Stackhousia monogyna* – Creamy Candles, *Stylidium gramminifolium* - Grass Trigger-plant, *Pimelea humilis* –

Common Rice-flower, *Pimelea linifolia* – Slender Rice-flower, *Daviesia leptophylla* – Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea.

Ade's contributions were from his Belmont garden and featured many Grevilleas, his Genus of choice. Among them were *Grevillea zygoloba*, *G. endlicheriana*, *G. georgiana*, *G. arenaria*, *G. 'Midas Touch'*, *G. 'Pink Candelabra'* and *G. 'Caloundra Gem'*.



***Grevillea endlicheriana* – Spindly Grevillea**

But not all Ade's plants are Grevilleas and there were several others on show, among them *Kunzea ambigua*, *Kunzea pulchella*, *Darwinia oxylepsis*, *Pimelea ciliata*, *Banksia solandri*, *Banksia blechnifolia*, *Hibbertia scandens*, *Geleznovia verrucosa*, *Pultenea pedunculata* and a number of *Chamelaucium* species and cultivars.



Pimelea ciliata

WARRNAMBOOL WEEKEND

by Ade

The weekend of 20/21 November had been planned for some months as an opportunity to visit two great gardens which we'd heard about at our September meeting. The weather forecast was lousy, but the Covid situation had us all a bit on edge and we were pretty desperate just to get out.

Penny and I headed down to Warrnambool on Friday morning, to catch up with one of Penny's school friends,

before joining the rest of our group for the garden visits. Because we needed to leave a little early on Sunday, and we had some time to spare, we visited the James Swan Reserve, which Kevin Sparrow told us about at the October meeting. The rest of the group planned to meet with Kevin at the Reserve on Sunday afternoon.



The reserve is on the main road and though small, has some wonderful native plantings around the perimeter. The *Banksia* collection was really stunning and there are many little treasures to be found as you wander around.

We checked in at a little caravan park in Killarney, had a walk around Griffith Island in Port Fairy and had the best fish'n'chips on the south coast for dinner.

Frank and I walked along Killarney Beach in bright sunshine the next morning, searching for, and finding, a good selection of migratory wading birds and a few locals.



Hooded Plovers at Killarney

We were very gratified to see good numbers of Hooded Plovers, critically endangered Australian birds, whose number are very low due to their kamikaze habit of nesting on the beaches in summer.

About 25 members gathered at the first garden at 1.00 pm – some had arrived earlier and enjoyed lunch with our hosts Ross Dawson and Sue Blood. After a very warm welcome we were invited to wander the gardens.



The crew receives a welcome from Sue

We were issued some identification challenges, and invited to offer suggestions for a suitable name for the garden. No printable ones were offered, but the 'schoolboy' arrangement of certain rocks featured strongly among the suggestions. Prizes were awarded for various challenges and it was a really fun afternoon.



Next morning we met at the second garden, that of David and Linda Hanscome, at 10 o'clock. After a quick history of the garden we again wandered at will among the plantings.



Linda gives us a brief history

There was an amazing array of native and exotic plants. David and Sue grow *Leucospermum*, *Leucodendron* and *Chamelaucium* for cut flowers, and the variety of *Chamelaucium* form and colour was, for me, a highlight.



The Hanscome gardens looking towards Tower Hill

Both gardens were wonderful and the friendly welcomes we received from our hosts will stay with us for a long time to come. I'd like to thank Bill, Sue, David and Linda for their hospitality and Bruce for his organizational skills. A great time was had by all.

More information on the gardens, their history and their contents can be found in the October issue of The Correa Mail.

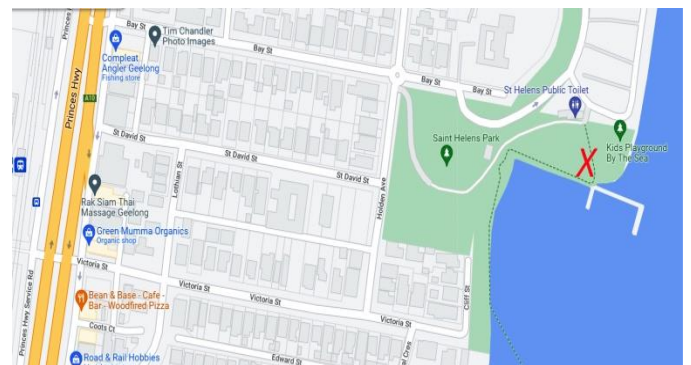
<http://www.apsgeelong.org/Newsletters/2021/October-2021.pdf>

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION

Sunday 5th December

The committee has opted for an outdoor picnic/BBQ style gathering for our Christmas break-up. We will gather at St.Helen's Park in Rippleside at 10.00am. The club will provide meat and bread for the BBQ and red or white wine for those who wish to partake. We ask that you all bring a salad or a dessert to share. Please bring EVERYTHING else you might need, plates, cutlery, glasses, chairs, nibbles, sunscreen, hat, raincoat, kitchen sink. There are BBQs at the park, but, just in case, committee members will bring 4 Webers as back-up. Meet at the BBQs near the pier. X marks the spot. Look forward to seeing everyone there!



We hope to see all of you there, for a final get-together to help us say goodbye and good riddance to 2020!

2022 MEETINGS

February 15TH	-	Nicole Leach - `Games Night`
March 15th	-	Geoff Lay – ‘Desert Plants’
April 19th	-	Neil Marriott – ‘Grevilleas’
May 17th	-	Royce Raliegh – ‘Lesser Known Plants for the Garden’.
June 21st	-	TBA
July 19th	-	TBA
August 16th	-	AGM and Photo Competition
Sept 20th	-	David Pye – ‘Dryland Eucalypts’.

AND ABOUT TIME TOO!

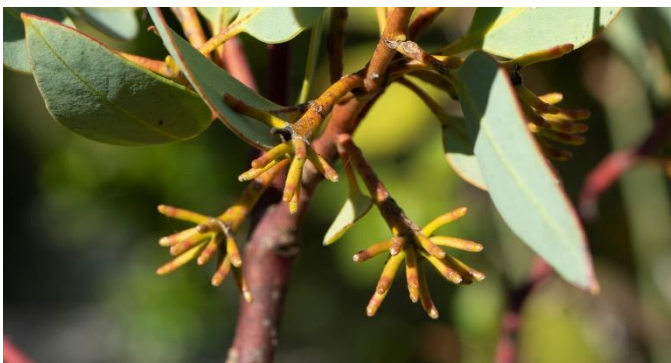
By Ade Foster

Four or five years ago, I obtained a little seedling of *Eucalyptus pimpiniana* from Roger Wileman, and duly planted it in my garden. It grew slowly, but I was assured it was a very small mallee type.



Photo by John R. Connors- Source: Wikipedia

In August of 2019 I noticed flower buds on several of the stems, although the plant was only about 600mm high at the time. The buds were tiny less, than 10mm. I eagerly awaited late spring/ early summer when they are purported to flower.



The first pendulous buds – 2019

I was disappointed as the buds grew slowly, but showed no signs of opening. I soon tired of my daily examination of the plant and went back to weed wrestling. Again in August 2020 I examined the plant and found more tiny buds, but the originals had

doubled in size and had operculums! (operculi?) Maybe this year



The larger second year buds

The buds continued to grow and more little ones appeared. Then last week, it happened. The first of the flowers opened twenty-eight months after the buds first appeared.



At last!

E. pimpiniana is called the Pimpin Mallee; Pimpin being the word for the tree in one of the Aboriginal languages of the area. It occurs sporadically in red sand and dune country in the Great Victoria Desert from near Ooldea in South Australia to Lake Minigwal in Western Australia. It was first described in 1912 by Joseph Maiden from material collected by Henry Deane near Ooldea in 1909.

It is a small, spreading multi-stemmed plant growing to 2m x 3m in favourable conditions. It is nowhere common, but promises to be a great little Eucalypt for our typical suburban gardens.

CONTACTING THE SECRETARY

Please use apsgeelong@gmail.com if you wish to contact the secretary for any reason. Thanks