



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 370 - July, 2021

WE'RE BACK

Thanks to Peter for covering the newsletter while Penny and I were away. We had a great holiday, and I told interested members all about it at our Zoom Meeting last Tuesday. A brief summary is included below.

JUNE MEETING -

June 15th

Ade & Penny's Outback Adventure

Penny and I were invited to join six friends on a ten day catamaran cruise of the Whitsunday Islands in May. Rather than fly up and back, we (that's the Royal 'we') decided to drive and purchased a small campervan to make us relatively comfortable.



Camping at Mutawintji National Park, NSW.

My aim was to introduce Penny to the wonders of outback NSW and QLD, while trying to see and photograph two hundred bird species. Penny's aim was to survive living with me in a camper for eight weeks, while I tried to see and photograph two hundred species of birds. Penny succeeded, (inasmuch as she survived) but I fell one short, with one hundred and ninety nine birds sighted. My talk was a photographic journey of the avian fauna encountered.

We travelled to Broken Hill, Mutawintji and Tibooburra in NSW, and I was excited to see three 'lifers' here. For the uninitiated, a lifer is a bird which the observer has not seen before. I've been travelling to Mutawintji since 1969, when, as carefree sixteen year olds, a mate and I took a bus to Broken Hill and then hitch-hiked the 120 kms to Mootwingee, as it was then known.



Bourke's Parrot at Mutawintji.

From NSW we travelled into QLD and through Thargomindah, Cunnamulla, Charleville, Barcaldine and Clermont. Across to Airlie Beach for the cruise, then back through Emerald Roma, St George and back into NSW to visit Dubbo Zoo.



Budgies at Cunnamulla

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The caravan Park at Cunnamulla was an avian delight with many birds resident in the park, and the first sighting of large flocks of wild budgies, something both Penny and Ade were keen to see.



A Black Kite at Charleville.

On the road into Barcaldine we encountered a pair of Brolgas, who gave us a twenty minute dance recital with their mating rituals.

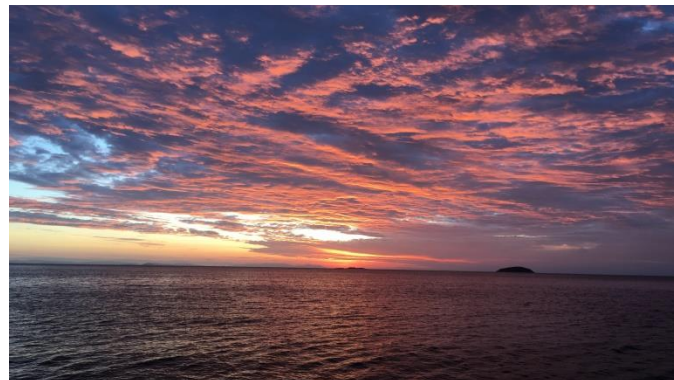


Airlie Beach proved to be a birding paradise and I managed to add a good number of new birds to my list here, before we headed off into the Whitsundays on our cruise.



Bar-shouldered Dove at Airlie Beach

The cruise was a delight. The catamaran, a 12metre Lagoon 450, although a little tight for space, was a delight. We sailed to a new location each day, and anchored in sheltered bays at night, enjoying the wonderful sights, amazing food, great company, a bit of fishing and some of the most awe-inspiring sunsets you could imagine.



Back on dry land we headed further north to Townsville, a favourite spot for both of us, and added quite a few more to the bird list, including two lifers – Barking Owl and Pacific Baza.



Pacific Baza – Townsville Common

As we headed south, the weather got colder and wetter and our last really enjoyable camp was at Dubbo where we visited the amazing open range zoo.



A 'King' Cheetah at Dubbo Zoo

As the weather deteriorated, the birds became harder to see, and my enthusiasm to get out in the cold was definitely lacking. However, a surprise visit to West Wyalong Caravan Park by a flock of twenty Pink Cockatoos ended the trip on a high.



Pink Cockatoo at West Wyalong

An altogether wonderful holiday, which, I hope, will be repeated in future.

Edit to add: While watching a slide-show of my photos with friends Dennis and Claire, on their giant TV, I noticed a bird that I had thought was a Brown Honeyeater. But, it was a little Rufous-throated Honeyeater. So ... two hundred species achieved!

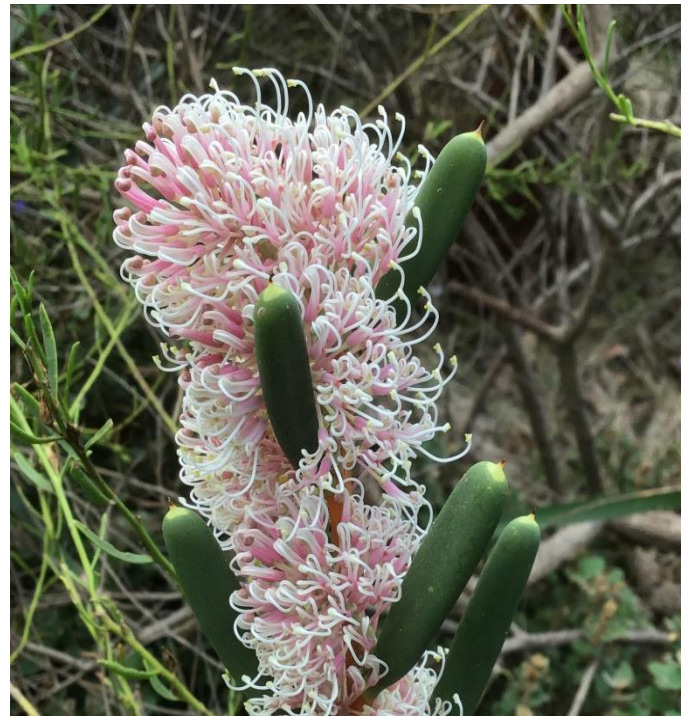


Rufous-throated Honeyeater at Townsville

VIRTUAL PLANT TABLE.

This month's contribution from the members was wonderful and we had almost 70 photos to enjoy. Thanks to Patrice Hall, Roger Wileman, Joy Sutton, Jennie Epstein, Frank Scheelings and Carmel Addlem for contributing some great pics of amazing plants. Here is just a sample.

Roger showed us a Banksia with an unusual clumping habit for its flowers, and unusual Eucalyptus flower and this beautiful *Hakea clavata* from his garden.



Roger's *Hakea clavata*

Among Joy's treasures was this wonderful example of *Grevillea rhyolitica*, flowering profusely at the moment.



Grevillea rhyolitica

Carmel sent in a good number of the plants she has flowering at the moment. Carmel propagates a lot of her plants from cuttings gleaned from the Plant Table at our regular meetings. She's not great at writing down the names, so her picture shows are as much about getting identification for herself as they are for our enjoyment. Of course, this gives us ample opportunity to undertake our favourite pastime – ragging on Carmel. This one, however, had a label and she was able to tell us that it was *Eremophila subfloccosa subsp. lanata*.... Quite a mouthful.



***Eremophila subfloccosa* subsp. *lanata*.**

Jennie showed us a number of photos of flowers from the Kabara Pools walk in Northern Territory. She didn't know the names of the plants and this one had everyone guessing.



Frank has a lot of very interesting and unusual plants in his garden, as well as some of the more common ones. It's always a treat to see what he has to offer. His photo of *Banksia robur* created some discussion as the flowers were growing in clumps on the stem, rather than their usual terminal presentation. There were lovely shots of *Diploaena grandiflora* and *aungustifolia* among many of Frank's great photos. This is the beautiful and extremely spiky *Hakea cristata*.



Frank's *Hakea cristata*.

Although I had already showed more than my fair share of photos on the night, none of them was of plants. This lovely *Eucalyptus woodwardii* was seen at Packsaddle, between Broken Hill and Tibooburra. It was also seen in many of the towns we visited where it features as a street tree.



***Eucalyptus woodwardii* at Packsaddle**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 4th July, Excursion to Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Meet at entrance of GBG near pond before 1.30pm
Ian Rogers will take members on a guided walk around GBG and give interesting insights on its history and design.

**Sunday 18th July & Tuesday 20th July
Inverleigh Native Gardens with Matt Leach**

Two dates to choose from or come both times! Meet 11:00 am at 42 Gregory Drive, Inverleigh. Matt would like everyone to park in the spare block which is

between 42 and 52 Gregory Drive. Matt will guide a walk around the best native gardens in Inverleigh.

Tuesday 20th July **General Meeting**
Chris Clarke – Plants of the Western Plains

Chris has a good knowledge of the Western Plains and is coming to Geelong to shed some light on this endangered ecosystem.

Tuesday 17th August – AGM and Photo Competition

We will hold our AGM at the August Meeting and as has become tradition, we will also conduct our annual Photo Competition. Details later in this edition.

Tuesday 21st September **General Meeting**

Our speaker will be Royce Raleigh, and he'll talk to us about peas in general, and peas of the Grampians in particular. Royce and Jeanne have a beautiful native garden in Wartook near the Grampians. Royce is a regular contributor to Australian Plants magazine and has a wealth of knowledge on Australian plants.

2021 PHOTO COMPETITION

Last year, because of the dreaded virus, we held our AGM and Photo Competition online. The committee feels that this is the way to go for future photo competitions. And so, we will do the same this year.

Again there will be three categories, Australian Plants, Australian Wildlife and Australian Landscapes. Members will be asked to enter photos in each category two photos per member per category. They will be collated into a Dropbox folder which members can view. You can then vote for your favourite photo via an online voting system.

At our August AGM meeting at the Ballroom all the submitted photos will be shown on the big screen, and the winners announced. Stay tuned for more info.



Last years' winner by Di Royce – Eucalyptus rodanthe

GROWING EREMOPHILAS

A great new book with everything you need to know about growing Eremophilas is soon to be published. It is written by Russel Wait. Russel has spoken to our club about grafting techniques, and has attended our plant sale both as a grower and a customer.

The book promises to be a treasure trove of information, and, as the back cover suggests, contains all Eremophila species, subspecies, hybrids and undescribed species currently in cultivation.

Register your interest at the email address pictured.



GROWING
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Email Russell Wait at:
eremophilabook@gmail.com

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