



# Correa Mail

Newsletter No 372 - September, 2021

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - August 17th

Our Annual General Meeting was held via Zoom. While the committee recognised that this was not ideal, given the current Covid situation we had no choice.

Out-going President Bruce McGinness presented his President's Report, a lively and amusing Star Trek / Dr. Who themed presentation. Secretary Frank Scheelings presented the Treasurer's Financial Report, which will be made available to members who were not present.

All committee positions were then declared vacant, and elections were held to fill them for the next year. Congratulations to the successful candidates ...

President ... Vacant  
Vice-president ... Carmel Addlem  
Secretary ... Peter Nuzum  
Treasurer ... Frank Scheelings  
General Members ... Matt Leach, Bruce McGinness, Sheila Deakin, Deb Peeters, Ade Foster

Sadly, no nomination was received for President, and that position remains vacant. Our club rules allow for us to co-opt members onto the committee, so if you think you can help us out, please put your hand up.

Thank you to retiring committee members, Dianne Royce and Matt Baars for all the time and effort you have given to the club. I would like to personally thank Bruce for his leadership and the calm and competent ways in which he dealt with the ups and downs of the last very difficult couple of years.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT Bruce McGinness

**APS GEELONG SHIPS LOG 2021** At the conclusion of the last presidents report I expressed the wish that we would boldly go where no plant club has gone before. The club has climbed on board the star ship APS Geelong Enterprise and I think we have steered a path through some large meteor fields with the assistance of the crew and a fine committee on the bridge. Communication through Zoom has been an important tool to keeping the club flying. I would like to thank our communication officer Ade Foster for dealing so

efficiently with this area and of course consistently producing a newsletter of outstanding quality.



Starship APS Geelong Enterprise

Our secretary Peter Nuzum picked up on the production of the newsletter when Ade was away, I would like to thank him for offering to do that and performing all the other important duties that are critical to keep us cruising. The ship's doctor Frank Scheelings has managed our finances in a scrupulous way and has done this without any expectations or complainants for eons. Second in command Matt Leach has been chipping away finding new speakers and new gardens to explore and has played a critical part in keeping the club ship APS Geelong worthy.

Our own Scotty: Matt Baars has been slaving away in the engine room for as long as I can remember, the club owes a lot to him for all the work he has put in the various roles he has played. Sheila Deakin is a long serving committee member who has been a consistent contributor to the club since the ship first left the docks. Carmel Addlem has brought her ideas, enthusiasm, and fun to the mix. Dianne Royce has consistently brought new ideas to the committee and is always up for a challenge and has consistently delivered results. Dianne won't be renominating for the committee this year so I would like to thank her for all the work she has done on the committee. Our newest recruit Deborah Peeters has

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recently joined the bridge and is a valuable member of the committee bringing fresh ideas.



**Continuing the theme**

February's aborted mission to Frank and Tina's for a BBQ was unfortunately an omen of things to come in 2021. March was a zoom meeting with Craig Shalders speaking about the extensive grounds and food production gardens at the Werribee Zoo; thank you Ade for organising Craig to speak to us. April brought the plant sale which went exceptionally well. Considering all the obstacles of Covid 19 the club came together and ran one of the most successful plant sales that I can remember. Thank you to everyone who helped with the planning and the running of the plant sale. As always, we are very grateful to Linda and Arthur Pape who allow us to host the plant sale on their property.



The May meeting was held at the Ballroom and was a successful night with the past director of Geelong

Botanic Gardens, Ian Rogers giving a presentation on the Gardens. A follow-up tour led by Ian was an informative afternoon out in the gardens. Thank you, Matt Leach, for organising Ian to give us a presentation and tour.

Ade at short notice gave a Zoom presentation at the June meeting on birds he photographed on his recent trip away. The photographs were of exceptional quality, and he always tells a good story.

July was another Zoom meeting with Chris Clarke giving a presentation on plants of the Western Plains. It was another exceptional presentation given by a presenter who knows his topic well.



**Bruce McGinness**

I have been president for four years and it is time for me to step into the TARDIS for regeneration and hopefully a new and improved president will emerge. It has been an eventful and fun four years, there will be obstacles, but I am confident that we will continue to flourish.

### **PHOTO COMPETITION**

We had a number of really good entries this year, with lots of variety, not only in subject choice, but in equipment used. The results show that you don't necessarily need hugely expensive camera equipment to take a great photo.

Once again, a big thank you goes to Bruce for collating all the photos and making them available for members to view; for collating the votes and sending them to me in a very usable format for the big reveal at our Zoom meeting and my apologies to Gordon Barfield and Nicole Leach for mucking up the presentation in true Oscars style.

*(I have tried to edit said mistake from the video to save face, but failed 😊) So, on with the show .....*



## AUSTRALIAN PLANTS



The winner is this wonderful study of the flowers and buds of *Eucalyptus* by Carmel Addlem.



2<sup>nd</sup> place was a great shot of the underside of the flowers of *Guichenotia (Thomasia?) grandiflora* by Frank Scheelings.



3<sup>rd</sup> Place was a bracket fungus, *Trametes sp?*, by Joy Sutton. While not actually a plant, it is a great photo.

## AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS



And the winner a great shot of a damsel fly, *Austrolestes annulosus*, the Blue Ringtail by Frank Scheelings at a swamp in the Brisbane Ranges.



In 2<sup>nd</sup> place a lovely shot of a Scarlet Robin taken at Barongarook, by Gordon Barfield.





In 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Australian Sealion, taken by Tina Scheelings, while whale watching at Bunbury in W.A.



In 3<sup>rd</sup> place this amazing image of a rock bridge near Mt. Magnet, W.A., by Gordon Barfield

## AUSTRALIAN LANDSCAPES



And the winner is Penny Foster, with this truly beautiful sunset on the Warrego River at Cunnamulla



In 2<sup>nd</sup> place a photo of the famous Pinnacles part of Nambung National Park, W.A., by Tina Scheelings

## VIRTUAL PLANT TABLE.

We had a great number of contributions from members this month. Thanks to Chris Walker-Cook, Roger Wileman, Tony Cavanagh, Dianne Royce, Ade Foster, Bruce McGinness, Jennie Epstein, Joy Sutton and Matt Leach for a wonderful lot of photos. The video showing all the flowers and the photo competition winners, is available online here ...

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

However, I'll share a few with you just to whet your appetites.



Tony Cavanagh's close-up of *Chamelaucium uncinatum* 'Seaton's Form' with huge white flowers about 4cm across. Tony also provided cracking images of a couple of *Dryandras*.

Bruce had some photos of plants in flower in his garden at the moment, including the interesting *Calothamnus quadrifidus*, the One-sided Bottlebrush.

As usual, my contributions featured many grevilleas, among them grevillea hybrids – Moonlight, Katherine's Fire, Jelly Baby, Caloundra Gem, Red Hooks and Sylvia. But also some true species with *G. glabrata*, *G. serivea*, *G. endlicheriana*, *G. hookeriana* and *G. fililoba*.

Chris Walker Cook showed us a beautiful orchid and a wonderful *Acacia convenyi* in full flower.





**Chris's *Acacia covenyi***

Matt Leach always has some great photos to show us and tonight was no exception. Matt's selections included Acacias, Hakeas, Grevilleas, and others like this *Corindium elatum*



***Corindium elatum***

Jennie Epstein showed a few from her gardens including this *Senna artemisioides*.



Roger showed us images of an interesting Eucalypt, *Eucalyptus tetraptera*, commonly known as Square-Fruited Mallee or Four-winged Mallee. See his article later in this edition.



***Eucalyptus tetraptera***

Thanks again to everyone for getting their photos in to me, and I urge you all to go to the video to see all the amazing photos and hear some interesting discussions about the plants featured.

## **STOP PRESS ... NEW PRESIDENT**

Following the AGM, retiring President, Bruce, was contacted by Phil Royce. Phil is keen to see the position of President filled and expressed his interest in taking on that role.

The matter was discussed at the committee meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> August and the motion was put to the meeting by Bruce McGinness that Phil Royce be co-opted to the committee as President. The motion was seconded by Ade Foster and the vote was unanimous.

Phil has been a long-time member of APS Geelong, and has served on the committee as Secretary in the past. He is also the Study Group co-ordinator for APS



Victoria and has served on several of their sub-committees.



**Phil Royce, President, APS Geelong**

Phil's enthusiasm will be of great benefit to our club and his no-nonsense style will ensure that our committee meetings don't run into marathon events.

On behalf of all the members of APS Geelong, I'd like to thank and congratulate our new President, Phil Royce.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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. Whether it be a Zoom meeting or a face to face meeting is yet to be determined.

**SEPTEMBER EXCURSION**

**Lerderderg Gorge**

Sadly, this excursion is cancelled. All the roads into the gorge are still closed by fallen trees and with Covid restrictions extended, the uncertainty leaves us no choice. It may be rescheduled ... we'll let you know.

**LITTLE RIVER VISITS**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

Matt Leach does some gardening for Ros, a lady in Little River, who is very keen to show us her garden. APS Geelong member, Jennie Epstein, is also in Little River and looks after her own garden, the Little River Station garden and has been involved in revegetation works with the local Landcare group. We'll combine all

these into a great day at Little River. More details as we get closer to the day.

#### **ALSO IN OCTOBER**

**Orchids.** We'll do a mid-week afternoon orchid hunt in the Anglesea area. Dates will depend on orchid flowering times, which can be quite variable, and, of course, the dreaded Covid. Stay tuned.



***Cyrtostylis reniformis* – Gnat Orchid from Anglesea**

**Werribee Zoo.** The follow-up visit to Craig Shalders' talk will be on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October. We'll meet inside the Zoo entrance for a walk around the gardens, and a look at some of the projects that Craig told us about. The gardens will be looking great at that time and, of course, there are the amazing animals, too.



We may also double-up and do a mid-week visit on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October. This is for those who can't make the Sunday visit, and may also enable us to have a guide from the Horticultural department to show us around. This will be confirmed as soon as we can get the details sorted.



I am also working on a special safari for members who attend. More to follow

### 16<sup>th</sup> November General Meeting

Our speaker will be John Rainer, a landscape designer who has done a lot of work designing parklands and roadside landscapes.

The club will be purchasing a blue-tooth device that will allow us to have speakers from out of town broadcast into The Ballroom, and John will be our first speaker with this format.

November 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### WARNAMBOOL

Bruce attended the Annual Quarterly Meeting in Warrnambool and was impressed with the gardens he saw. We are hoping to make a weekend trip to Warrnambool in November to revisit some of these gardens and perhaps The Peter Francis Points Arboretum at Coleraine. Again, stay tuned.

### Christmas Function Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December

The committee has opted for an outdoor picnic style gathering for our Christmas break-up gathering. Given the uncertainty with future Covid restrictions we felt this was the best opportunity to get us together. We are looking at various venues – Eastern Gardens, Barwon Valley, Rippleside Park, Inverleigh etc. If anyone has any other suggestions, we'd love to hear from you.

### EUCALYPTUS TETRAPTERA

By Roger Wileman

During the virtual plant table this month, Roger showed us photos of three small Eucalypts growing in southern Western Australia. He has very kindly written an article about all three as an adjunct to his talk. Ed.



*E. Tetraptera*

Known as the Four-winged Mallee or the Square-fruited Mallee, *Eucalyptus tetraptera* was first described in 1849. It is found in southern Western Australia, from the Stirling Range to Esperance and Israelite Bay, mainly along the southern coastal strip. It is a straggly, sprawling non-lignotuberous mallee which grows to about 4m in height.

The leaves are very large, thick and have a very leathery texture. The squared flower buds are red but the flowers, are a rich pink, occasionally red and rarely purple. After flowering the fruit changes in colour from red to green and continues to grow in size into a very large and interesting square shaped fruit.



The 'usual' pink flowers of *E. tetraptera*

*E. tetraptera* varies considerable across its range. The leaves and fruit are small in the west and much larger in the east. There is a population of *E. tetraptera* at Point Ann, east of Bremer Bay, which grows very close to the coast and is completely prostrate.

An interesting feature of this form is that the leaves appear to shelter the flowers from the salt laden winds, as the only seed pods to form are under the leaves.



*E. tetraptera* fruits

Another form that I have found is an area where all the fruit has six wings on the fruit instead of the usual



four. There are also some rare naturally occurring hybrids ... *E. x erythrandra*, a hybrid of *E. tetraptera* x *E. angulosa* and *E. x stoaptera*, a hybrid of *E. tetraptera* x *E. stoatei*.

#### **EUCALYPTUS SWEEDMANIANA - Sweedmans Mallee**

*Eucalyptus sweetmaniana* is a very restricted mallee from Cape Arid, east of Esperance. It was very recently named in 2009 to honour Luke Sweedman, the curator of the Western Australian seed technology centre Kings Park, Perth.

It is a small sprawling, multi-stemmed mallee with a lignotuber. This is where the plant will reshoot after a fire. It also releases seed held within the seed pods. A distinguishing feature of this mallee is a slight ribbing in the area between the four wings of the fruit, whereas in *E. tetraptera* and *E. brandiana* this area is smooth.



***E. sweetmaniana***

There are fewer than one hundred *E. sweetmaniana* growing at Cape Arid. It is very unlikely to find this mallee in cultivation, as it only occurs in the Cape Arid N.P. the visual appeal of this mallee is low.

#### **EUCALYPTUS BRANDIANA - Four winged mallett**

*Eucalyptus brandiana* was also named in 2009 after Grady Neil Brand, senior curator of Kings Park, Perth. It is a very rare, upright, single-trunked mallett from the

Fitzgerald River N.P. All populations are within the N.P. around the lower reaches of the Fitzgerald River.

*E. brandiana* has been grown in the southern areas of Australia for many years and was referred to as the upright form or of *E. tetraptera* (which is multi-trunked and sprawling). The leaves and fruit of *E. brandiana* are larger than *E. tetraptera*.

You may ask why one is named a mallee and the other a mallett? A mallee has a lignotuber from which the plant will reshoot after a fire. A mallett has no lignotuber and will regrow from released seed.

I have plenty of *E. brandiana* seed if anyone would like to grow some.



***E. brandiana***

One of the things that Roger mentioned in both his talk and his article is the unusual leaves of *E. tetraptera*. These photos show just how big those leaves can get. Thanks again, Roger, for the great article and photos.



**Leaves of *E. tetraptera* – in inches!**



## A THORNY PROBLEM WITH 'THORNY DEVIL'

By Ade Foster

During our June Zoom 'Virtual Plant Table', Frank Scheelings posted a photo of a *Grevillea* from his garden the identity of which he was unsure, but he'd labelled it '*G. nana* x?'.

It was identified by one of our members as *Grevillea* 'Thorny Devil'. I didn't agree with that identification. I didn't know what it was, but I knew it wasn't 'Thorny Devil'. There followed some good humoured ragging along the lines of 'If you don't know what it is, how do you know what it's not?' That's a fair point. So ..... here is Frank's 'mystery' grevillea photo.



Frank's photograph

As you can see, it is an attractive flower group, with deep maroon styles and quite sharply pointed leaves. Now, here is *Grevillea* 'Thorny Devil', a standard plant from my garden, taken a few years back. Flower structure and colour are quite different to Frank's plant, as is the leaf form.



G. 'Thorny Devil' from my garden

So, what is Frank's mystery plant? As I've said, I don't think it's *Grevillea nana*. For many years plants have been sold with incorrect or misleading labels. *Grevillea* 'Red Hooks', for example, was sold as *G. hookeriana*. Even today it is often listed as *G. hookeriana* 'Red Hooks'. It is, in fact, a hybrid of *G. tetragoniloba* and

(perhaps?) *G. longifolia*. So, was Frank's plant labelled incorrectly, or, like me, does he just forget stuff? I think it is fair to say that both are possibilities.

I had my suspicions, and so consulted a number of respected pundits, and the consensus is that Frank's photo is of *Grevillea calliantha*, or a hybrid closely aligned to the *G. calliantha* parent.

Known as Foote's *Grevillea* or the Cataby *Grevillea*, *G. calliantha* is a rare and endangered plant growing in a restricted area between Dandaragan and Cataby, about 160 km north of Perth, Western Australia.



*Grevillea calliantha* - Copyright Robert Wyatt 2021

According to the Western Australian Parks and Wildlife Interim Recovery Plan from June 2014, it was discovered in 1981 by Nick Foote who provided material to a nursery in Perth. They introduced the species to the *Grevillea* Study Group, which in turn notified Parks and Wildlife in 1988. The type specimen was collected near Cataby by B.J. Conn in 1989. Subsequent searching by Parks and Wildlife resulted in the discovery of five additional populations.

*G. calliantha* is a low, spreading shrub bearing massed flower heads on the edges and lower sides of the branches. Flower heads are 50mm – 75mm in length, the perianth is apricot/yellow and the longish styles are deep maroon/black to red.



Frank's Plant in Highton



*Grevillea calliantha* was named by Makinson and Olde in 1991. Its name comes from the Greek 'callos', meaning 'beauty' and 'anthos', meaning 'a flower' and refers to the spectacular and prolific floral display.

*Grevillea calliantha* is known from six populations, comprising 168 mature plants. In 1998 and 2010, translocations were carried out in an attempt to increase the number of plants. However, the survival rate has been low, due to heavy grazing and drought.



The flowers on Frank's plant.

*Grevillea 'Flame'n'Beauty*, a hybrid of *G. calliantha* and *G. asparagoides*, was one suggested hybrid possibility for Frank's plant, as was *G. trueriana* x *G. calliantha*. Both have similar habit and flowers, but flowers are a little redder than *G. calliantha*. These crosses might explain Frank's tentative '*G. nana* x' identification on the night ... or not! ☺



*G. calliantha* x *asparagoides* from Matt Leach's garden and below, the plant in question from Frank's garden



So, what then *is* 'Thorny Devil'? *Grevillea* 'Thorny Devil' is a hybrid developed by Neil Marriot around 1996. Its parent plants are *G. nana* subsp. *nana* and *G. tenuiloba*. Both parents are Western Australian plants, the former from north and east of Perth, the latter found inland from Geraldton.

'Thorny Devil' differs from *G. nana* subsp. *nana* in that it has smaller, more densely formed leaves and the flowers are a salmon/orange colour. The flowers of *G. nana* subsp. *nana* are reddish pink. It differs from *G. tenuiloba* by having larger, coarser leaves and a more prostrate habit. The flowers of *G. tenuiloba* are a vibrant, bright orange.



*Grevillea tenuiloba*

While *G. 'Thorny Devil'* is a spreading, prostrate plant, it was quite commonly used on a *G. robusta* stock to make a dense and very attractive, if somewhat prickly, standard. And it was this form that I had in my garden for many years. Last year, it succumbed to borers and strong winds and was removed.



My *G. 'Thorny Devil'* in its heyday.



As always, I'm happy to hear from anyone who has other suggestions or information. I'd also like to thank Robert Wyatt from **Rob's Photography Services** for his kind permission to use the image of *Grevillea calliantha* in this article. Rob's site has great images of Australian native plants and lots more. Check out his site here ...

<https://www.robspotography.com/index.htm>

## RIVER RED GUM

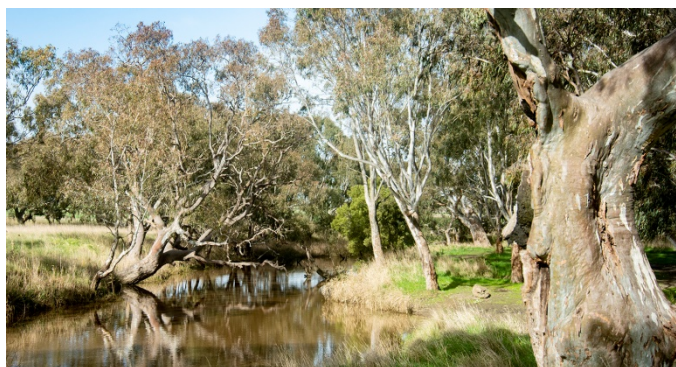
### *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

I was browsing the internet the other day, and I read something that quite startled me. Perhaps it is known to you, but it certainly was news to me. According to the article I was reading, the River Red Gum, that iconic Aussie tree, the only Eucalypt that occurs naturally in all states of Australia, was named after an Italian monastery! Could this be true? I investigated. It's quite a story, so bear with me.



*E.camaldulensis* - Barwon River at Inverleigh

The type specimen for *E. camaldulensis* - the specimen selected to serve as a reference point when a plant species is first named – was collected in Italy, **not** Australia. Seeds were collected by Allan Cunningham near Condoblin in central New South Wales in 1817. Cunningham was the King's Botanist and he provided seeds to the well-known Italian gardener and landscaper Frederick Denhardt. Denhardt planted his seedlings in the Camaldoli Hermitage gardens near Naples and named them *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* to honour their Italian location. These trees survived until 1922.



In 1932 Denhardt published a catalogue of all the plants growing in the garden and listed the name *E. camaldulensis*. But this publication was little known and largely ignored. The species was given the name *E. rostrata* by NSW botanist Diederich von Schlechterindahl in 1847, but this was rejected by authorities because, in 1797, a Spanish botanist had applied that name to the Swamp Mahogany Gum, which is now *E. robusta*. (Are you still with me?)



In 1853, Victorian botanist, Ferdinand Von Mueller gave the River Red Gum the name of *E. longirostratis* which referred to the long beak on the rostrum, the cap that covers the developing flower.

Then, in 1932, ten years after the Camaldoli Hermitage trees were cut down, researchers in Vienna's Natural History Museum found one of Denhardt's 1832 catalogues with the name *E. camaldulensis*. The 'rule of priority of publication' determined that Denhardt's original name, published thirty one years before Von Mueller's, should be restored. And so, River Red Gums are known as *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*.

**Edit to add:** While searching for a photo I found an article written by Tony Cavanagh in The Correa Mail of May 2015, entitled 'Eucalyptus camaldulensis – The Origin Of Its Name', which gives a longer and slightly different version of these events. I had completely forgotten about this article. Sorry Tony. But, to be fair, it was over six years ago. Here's a link to re-read.

<http://www.apsgeelong.org/Newsletters/2015/May-2015.pdf>

## ARTICLES LIKE THESE.

If you'd like to share some stories about a plant from your garden or the bush, please send it to me for inclusion in *YOUR* newsletter. Thanks in advance.