



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 377 - March, 2022

FEBRUARY MEETING

Fun and Games

Our first meeting of the year was a fun night of plant-based trivia games, organised by Nicole and Matt Leach. In classic school-ma'am style, Nicole organised our rowdy lot into 'equal' teams and informed us, in no uncertain terms, that cheating, heckling, arguing and interrupting would result in loss of points. It had zero effect, and a fun-filled and rowdy night ensued.

The first challenge - *Botany* - was taken out by 'The Everlastings' – Matt, Joy, Chris and Jennie.

Challenge 2 - *The Kevin Hoffman Walk* - was won by 'The Pistils' Arthur, Tina, Bruce and Lyhn.

Challenge 3 - *Plant Genera* - went to 'The Stinking Rogers' (an environmental weed, *Tagetes minuta*, and no reflection on Mr. Wileman) Carmel, Di and Ade.

Clear winners of the *Clueless* challenge were again 'The Stinking Rogers'.

The *Matchy Matchy* challenge was won easily by 'The Rooting Hormones', Penny, Frank, Peter and Deb.

'The Pistils' won the *Anatomy* challenge, and 'The Rooting Hormones' took out the plant table challenge, *Plant Bingo*, and the overall Championship.



Our overall winners, 'The Rooting Hormones'

A huge thank you goes to Nicole for her organisational skills and to Matt for his unbiased refereeing of some of our overly-competitive members. We all had a great night and I'm sure the '*It Stuck To My Shoe*' trophy will be fiercely contested at the next Trivia Challenge.

PHIL ROYCE RETIREMENT

The committee is sad to announce that Phil Royce has decided to retire from his position as President of APS Geelong and from club activities. Phil has cited personal reasons for his decision.

Your committee has reluctantly accepted Phil's decision. His enthusiasm and drive will be greatly missed. Our committee meetings have been overseen by Phil in a business-like manner, and now, they will almost certainly run longer than necessary. His determination to start a project and see it through to completion has led to many great results for the club.



Phil's contributions at the meetings were also notable, and I enjoyed and was thankful for, his articles for this newsletter. His quirky sense of humour, missing now from our meetings will leave them much poorer.

Thank you, Phil, from all of us at APS Geelong, for your considerable contribution to the club over many years. We wish you well, and sincerely hope that you can see your way clear to re-join us when the time is right for you.

President: Position Vacant

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PLANT TABLE

with Matt Leach

Matt and Nicole very cleverly merged the plant table discussion with our last challenge, turning into a game of plant bingo. And, as always, there was plenty to see.

Banksias are always a feature of our table with many members having an affinity for growing them. Among tonight's offerings was *Banksia burdettii*, a shrub with lovely orange and white flowers, similar to *B. prionotes*. *Banksia praemorsa*, the Cut-leaf Banksia is a beautiful ornamental shrub that usually features deep red flowers. Our specimen was of the yellow-flowered form. *Banksia aculeata* is a tall shrub with dense, prickly-edged leaves and pendulous, red/brown flowers, reminiscent of pine cones when in bud.



Banksia lehmanniana – Photo: Joy Sutton

Banksia lehmanniana is a large, open shrub, again with pendulous flowers of lemon yellow. The common name of Yellow Lantern Banksia is quite descriptive. *Banksia saxicola* or the Grampians Banksia, may be a large tree, featuring dark green, shiny leaves with a silvery grey underside.

Eucalypts were also well represented with to Western Australian mallets, *E. stoatei*, and *E. pterocarpa*. *E. synandra* is a small mallee shrub with beautiful creamy flowers that hang like tiny lanterns. *E.*

albopurpurea is a mallee or small tree found only on the southern tip of the Eyre Peninsular and on Kangaroo Island. It usually featured purple flowers, but our specimen was the unusual white-flowered form.

There were a number of Asteraceae on display. *Xerochrysum bracteatum* is available in a multitude of colours. It's large and showy paper-daisy flowers make it a popular garden plant. Those on show were a vibrant gold, and a deep red with yellow centre. *Trachymene coerulea*, the Rottneest Island daisy is an erect perennial with bright blue, pin-cushion flowers. *Ammobium elatum* is another perennial plant, with silvery foliage and small but abundant papery white flowers with large golden, contrasting centres. It self-seeds very readily. *(Frank Scheelings gave me a couple of these innocent-looking plants. They grew extremely quickly and produced flowers on metre-long stalks which tried to bite me every time I walked past. Plant at your peril!)*



Ammobium alatum – Photo Frank Scheelings

PLANT OF THE MONTH

With our meetings back in The Ballroom, and our regular flower table happening again, it's great to be able to start our 'Flower of the Month' feature once more. I chose this month's plant which was brought along by Frank Scheelings. Ed.

EREMOPHILA CUNEIFOLIA

by Frank Scheelings

The name *Eremophila* means desert-loving, and the *cuneifolia* refers to its wedge-shaped leaves. This shrub grows from 1 to 1.5 meters, and is one of the more popularly grown Eremophilas, due to its brilliant, colourful display.

Mine was grown as a grafted plant by Roger Wileman and has been in my garden for about 3 years. It is a compact shrub and usually flowers profusely from late

winter to early summer. This year it seems to have had an extra flowering in Early February.



Frank's plant showing flowers and bracts

It does not grow well in Victoria unless grafted, usually onto *Myoporum* sp. Stock. It responds well to pruning which helps to keep a compact shape. The flower consists of a deep pink to purple corolla or tube, surrounded by colourful lighter pink sepals; after the flower falls, the sepals remain on the plant for a long time, continuing a colourful display. It is quite hardy, and tolerates dry conditions, but is very frost sensitive, so some thought needs to be given to its location in the garden, or it can be grown in pots where it will forgive neglectful gardeners who fail to water frequently.



Frank's *E. cuneifolia*

With the common name of Pinyuru, *E. cuneifolia* is found in the central desert regions of Western Australia and extends to the coast north of Exmouth, where it grows on a variety of soils.

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

These are just a few of the up-coming events that the club is running things that you might like to take part

in. Please take note of the dates and put them in your diary so you don't miss out.

PLANT SALE

April 9th

Our autumn plant sale is on again, Saturday April 9th from 8.30 am until 4.00 pm. Once again it will be held at the home of Arthur and Linda Pape in Lovely Banks.

We already have seven growers raring to go and five or six more who've indicated their intention to come. It's going to be the best yet!

There is a long list of jobs that need to be done on the day, and before-hand. We will be asking members to give us an hour or two (or five) to help out. There will be a sheet available at the next meeting for names and available times for those willing to help.

There will be a BBQ dinner after the sale for those who have contributed during the day.

This list of jobs includes canteen duty, BBQ cooking, entrance gate, car-park attendant, general dogs-body etc. There will also most likely be a working bee before-hand to clean up a little and a half day set-up on the Friday afternoon before the sale.

We'll keep you posted.

MARCH MEETING

Desert Plants

Our speaker in March will be Geoff Lay, who'll talk to us about plants of Australia's deserts that he has seen during 40+ years of wanderings around Australia. It promises to be a wonderful and interesting talk.

2022 MEETINGS

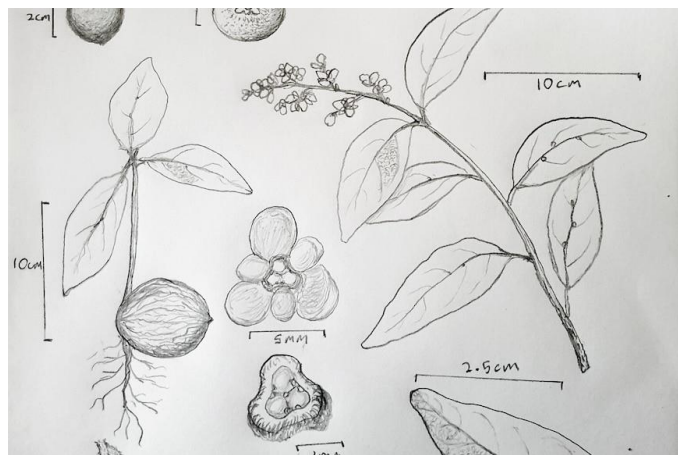
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| March 15th | - | Geoff Lay – 'Desert Plants' |
| April 19th | - | Neil Marriott – 'Grevilleas' |
| May 17th | - | Royce Raleigh – 'Lesser Known Plants for the Garden'. |
| June 21st | - | Miriam Ford – Prostantheras |
| July 19th | - | TBA |
| August 16th | - | AGM and Photo Competition |
| Sept 20th | - | David Pye – 'Dryland Eucalypts'. |

A NEW TREE DISCOVERED IN QUEENSLAND

A Gold Coast botanist, Lui Weber, has discovered a new tree species just a few minutes from the M1 freeway in Wongawallan. On a visit to the physio, he noticed a large tree in the backyard which looked

similar, but different, to the Crystal Creek Walnut, an endangered species found in northern NSW.

Mr Weber described it as a big tree with thick, corky barky and small leaves. It took some years for him to find the flowers and fruit, and finally establish that this was a new species. His findings were published in 'Austrobaileya' the journal of the Queensland Herbarium.



Liu Weber's sketches of *E. wongawallensis*
Photo from ABC website, supplied by Liu Weber

And so, The Wongawallan Walnut, *Endiandra wongawallensis*, was given a name, and quite an alliterative one at that.

The tree has large fruit which may have been eaten and dispersed by Cassowaries. As these great birds are no longer found in southern Queensland, the tree became quite rare.

Read the whole story by Tom Forbes on the ABC Gold Coast News website here ...

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-02-10/new-tree-species-discovery-on-gold-coast/100812328?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web

MY LITTLE EUCY STORY

by Joy Sutton

This is a little "what-is-it" story. When I took on the family farm in 2012 the subject of this story was a seemingly dead stump 12-15 cm or so in diameter that had at some stage been sawn off at ground level.

So it was a pleasant surprise to note sprouting from the "dead stump". I have no idea how long the stump had been dormant. I was pretty thrilled when the sole surviving branch from that sprouting bore masses of beautiful flowers several years later.



The 'mystery' plant in flower

So what was it? Clearly the leaves had indicated eucalypt and the irregular shape of the ground-level stump suggested mallee type. I vaguely recalled *Eucalyptus nutans* as a species Dad had planted somewhere. Could this be it?

A contribution to one of our Zoom plant tables resulted in the suggestion that it was more likely *E. cernua*. And indeed Dean Nicolle's wonderful book on smaller eucalypts bore out the fact that these moorts had been often mistakenly planted in southern Australia as *E. nutans*.

However, Nicolle's book also stated that of the moorts/marlocks/mallets that resemble nutans or cernua, only *E. proxima* – the "nodding mallee" – has a lignotuber. As my little eucy had sprung from the ground, I assume it has sprung from a lignotuber. So mystery solved! Perhaps.



An interesting feature of these tiny plants is how deeply lobed the cotyledons are.

So, now I have baby *proximas* – 10 in all. I won't be able to plant 10, so would love for anyone looking for a beautiful little tree – 5 to 8 m tall (mine is still only 2m tall after 9 years) – to take one, or more, for their gardens. They are only just starting to put out their first pair of true leaves, but all 10 look disgustingly healthy and raring to get going on life.

VALE ROY WHITESIDE

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Roy Whiteside, a founding member of Geelong APS group which was formed as The Society for Growing Australian Plants – Geelong, in October, 1966.

Born in England, Roy moved to Australia and worked as an electrical engineer. He met Helen in Adelaide and they were married before moving to Geelong, where Roy lectured at The Gordon Institute of Technology, and later, Deakin University.

Roy was a quiet and very knowledgeable man who always had an interesting story, imparted with his shy smile.

We extend our sincere condolences to Helen and the family.

COMMITTEE VACANCY

With Phil's retirement we find ourselves looking for a member or two to join our committee. The task is not onerous or difficult (or even scary). If you think you might like to help us out have a chat with any of the committee members and they'll set you mind at rest 😊

BEEES CAN BE A BUGGER SOMETIMES

We've always had a garden full of bees. With a predominantly Grevillea plant community here, there is always something in flower to keep the bees happy. Just prior to Christmas, I noticed bees entering the wall of our dining room, through a rotted weatherboard, tucked in behind a Grevillea 'Superb'.

'Bugger', thought I, 'They'll have to go and I'll have to replace some weatherboards'. All of which meant I'd need to pick up a paint-brush again! I was horrified at the thought. We contacted a bee-removalist, who, for about the cost of a week in Noosa, destroyed the front wall and removed the bees.

I wasn't as upset about that as I was at the loss of two Grevilleas that 'needed' to be removed to give the bee man access. Gone was a *G. banksii* cultivar called 'White Cadelabra' and my oldest Grevillea – a 'Superb' planted in the early 1990s. 😞

I've often been heard to wonder at the fickle nature of Grevilleas; their ability to be flowering profusely one day and be dead and dry two days later. But, not this time. Both my Grevilleas refuse to die, and though nothing was left but a stump, both have re-sprouted. To say I'm happy would indeed be an understatement.



Grevillea 'Superb' ... from a ground-level stump

And, I'm very pleased to report, I still have bees in the garden. The 'Superb' has put out a single shoot which is looking strong and healthy. The 'White Candelabra' seems to be sprouting in the manner of a eucalypt after fires. Do Grevilleas have epicorms?

Oh, and the painting went well, although I developed a nasty rash from touching the paintbrush. 😊



'Bee Man' wreaks havoc - 'White Candelabra' reshoots

CONTACTING THE SECRETARY

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