

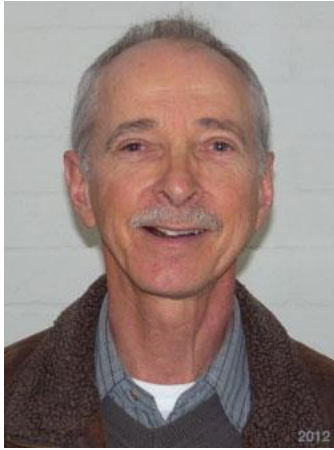


Correa Mail

Newsletter No 379 - May, 2022

APRIL MEETING – GREVILLEAS with Neil Marriott

Our speaker at the April meeting was Neil Marriott, co-author of the authoritative three-volume work 'The Grevillea Book'. Neil's topic was 'My Twenty Favourite Grevilleas'



Neil grew up in Frankston with parents who loved gardening, particularly native plants. He was initially not interested in plants, but was mad on birds. However he soon noticed that the honeyeaters in particular were attracted into the garden to feed on the Banksias and Grevilleas. So he pestered his Dad to buy more and

more different Banksias and Grevilleas to attract more birds into our garden.

This led to a meeting with Rodger Elliot who enthused Neil to try and collect new Grevilleas in the wild, offering to propagate them if Neil could provide him with good cuttings.

Neil was a teacher, and used school holidays to travel Victoria, collecting Grevilleas and recording their distributions. Jim Willis, then Head of the Melbourne Herbarium encouraged Neil and he'd soon collected all of the Victorian species. Then came trips into New South Wales and South Australia in search of more.

Neil taught at Stawell for 15 years and then started the White Gums wholesale/retail Nursery, which produced many thousands of rare and unusual native plants for collectors around the country. The nursery had an extensive garden which helped Neil sell the plants from the nursery.

Another fifteen years on and Neil became the Regional Manager for the Trust For Nature. After sixteen years with Trust for Nature, with wife, Wendy

Neil set up White Gums Environmental Consultancy carrying out surveys of public and private land for a large range of property owners, a job we still love doing.

Neil is a former APS Vic and APS Grampians President, and currently, Conservation Officer for APS Victoria and APS Grampians Vice President. He is also on the Board of the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority (ACRA) as the APS Vic representative.

NEIL'S TWENTY FAVOURITE GREVILLEAS.

Grevillea bipinnatifida is a very variable Grevillea ranging in size and growth habit. There are two subspecies recognised. Along with *G. banksii*, it is a parent plant for many well-known garden hybrids. Native to the WA around the Perth region.



Red Wattlebird on *Grevillea bipinnatifida*

Grevillea magnifica. Two subspecies, *magnifica* and *remota*. Usually quite low shrub to about 1.5 m, but with long stems some 5m long and magnificent tubular flowers. Local grower, John Mahoney, found a dwarf form in his nursery which is a great garden plant. Now renamed as *G. petrophiloides* subsp. *magnifica* it is found in a couple of locations in the wheatbelt east of Perth

Grevillea excelsior is a stunning plant with very large deep golden flowers. Found in the south west of WA, inland from the coast.

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Grevillea leucopteris is a controversial plant, with masses of large, creamy-white, almost woolly flowers. It has two pheromone emitters and makes different smells during the day and at night. Some people find the smell obnoxious, others sweet and honey-like. Found in coastal areas from around Perth to north of Geraldton.



Grevillea leucopteris

Grevillea beardiana. This was Peter Olde's favourite plant from their first trip to WA. It has deep red/orange flowers and is easy to cultivate. Found in and around the Coolgardie region of WA.

Grevillea dryandroides. This is a critically endangered plant known from about twenty populations on roadside reserves. A low-growing plant with red flowers on long, prostrate stems, it is found inland and north of Perth. It is a very good plant as a standard.

Grevillea calliantha is another critically endangered Grevillea from around the Cataby/Dandaragan area north of Perth. It is an attractive, layered plant with prolific yellow and blackish, pendulous flowers.



Grevillea calliantha

Grevillea insignis. This is a striking plant with sharp, holly-like leaves and pink or reddish flowers. It is found in southern WA.

Grevillea tenuiloba is a prostrate or low-growing shrub with striking deep orange flowers on long stems. It is critically endangered and found around Merredin, inland from Geraldton in WA. It makes a magnificent standard.

Grevillea hookeriana is a reasonably common plant of the south west of WA. It has a number of habits and a big range in flower colours from red through pink and green to almost black. There is a rare lemon yellow form. Neil's favourite is the 'black-flowered' form.



Grevillea hookeriana

Grevillea bronwenae is a grevillea discovered by Neil in the Whicher Range south of Busselton. It is a striking plant with bright red flowers with blue pistil tips. As a grafted plant it makes a wonderful specimen in any garden.

Grevillea 'Red Hooks' is often sold in nurseries as *G. hookeriana*, but it is, in fact, a hybrid of *G. longifolia* x *G. tetragonoloba*. It is a shrub to small tree with deep red, tooth-brush flowers.

Grevillea priessii ssp *glabrilimba* is a low-growing shrub grey/green foliage and masses of deep red flowers. It is found on the coastal plains of WA from Cervantes to around Eneabba. A very hardy plant, it is sold in nurseries as *Grevillea* 'Seaspray'.



***Grevillea priessii* 'Seaspray'**

Grevillea aquifolium is found in south west South Australia and western Victoria. It can be a prostrate plant or a medium shrub with various colour forms,

mostly red. Leaves are hard and holly-like with sharply pointed tips.



***Grevillea aquifolium* - Grampians**

Grevillea candelabroides is a large shrub to small tree and may reach 3m x 3m. It has long, divided leaves and the flowers appear in clusters on the end of the stems. They are large, around 200mm, and creamy white.

Grevillea cirsiifolia is a prostrate plant found in the southwest of WA. It has long, dark green serrated leaves and curious yellow flowers. It is a hard plant to grow, but strikes well. Neil suggests water through the summer.

Grevillea flexuosa is critically endangered, and was presumed extinct until several specimens were found in a reserve 60ks from the Perth GPO. It is a large shrub which needs some pruning to keep it under control. The yellow, pom-pom flowers are a feature.



Grevillea flexuosa

Grevillea johnsonii is one parent of many common garden plants. It is native to the western slopes of the Blue Mountains and is an open shrub with delicate red-orange spidery flowers.

Grevillea plurijuga is an interesting plant with two subspecies, soon to become true species. The coastal *subsp plurijuga* is a prostrate plant with flowers on the end of long trailing stems. The more inland *subsp. superba* is an upright shrub with paler pinkish flowers. *Subsp. plurijuga* is common as a standard and makes a superb specimen plant.



Grevillea plurijuga subsp. plurijuga

PLANT TABLE **with Bruce McGinness**

Bruce hosted an impressive plant table, and, thanks to a call from Peter to honour our speaker, there was a plethora of grevilleas on show.

Ade bought a selection from his garden, among them true species *G. bronwenae*, *G. hookeriana*, *G. fililoba*, *G. mackinsonii*, *G. paradoxa* and *G. georgeana*. There were also a number of hybrids – Sylvia, Katherine’s Sister, Ivory Whip, Molly, Peaches’ n’ Cream and more.

Others brought grevilleas too. There was a *G. juncifolia* cross, a *G. rhyolitica* – ‘Little Red’, *G. preissii* ‘Seaspray’, *G. plurijuga*, *G. aspera*, *G. insigninis subsp. elliottii*, several forms of *G. lanigera*, *G. endlicheriana*, A *G. insinis x G. georgeana* that was a real beauty, *G. ‘Wendy’s Sunshine’*, (named for Neil’s wife, Wendy) *G. ‘Evelyn’s Coronet*, a *G. buxifolia* hybrid and a *Grevillea x semperflorens*, which, surprisingly, originated in England in 1937, a cross between *G. thelemanniana* and *G. juniperina var sulphurea*.



***Grevillea endlicheriana* in Ade’s garden**

And there was a lovely example of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia*, the now extinct in the wild ‘Lara Form’ which is our club’s emblem.

There were a good number of Banksias too. A common plant in local gardens is *Banksia spinulosa*, *B. occidentalis* is a large shrub/ small tree with striking red and yellow inflorescences. *Banksia violacea* is a small

shrub with almost spherical deep purple flowers. *B. candolleana*, the Propellor Banksia is a shrub with long zig-zag leaves and orange/yellow flowers. *B. squarrosa* is a tall, prickly shrub with long leaves that have sharply pointed teeth down each edge. It has yellow, almost thistle-like flowers and is endemic to the south-west of WA. *Banksia ericifolia* is a NSW endemic and a really striking specimen tree. It can grow to about 7 metres but features very large, cylindrical orange flower spikes up to 30cm long.



A *B. ericifolia* hybrid – Giant Candles

There were many other wonderful plants from many and various genera.

Callistemon phoeniceus, now *Melaleuca phoenicea*, is a variable shrub or tree from 2m – 6m with bright red bottlebrush flowers.

Hibiscus heterophyllus, commonly known as native hibiscus or toilet paper bush (really?), is a flowering shrub or small tree with white, pale pink or yellow flowers with a dark red centre. It is found naturally in New South Wales and Queensland.

Darwinia collina, the Yellow Mountain Bell is confined to the Stirling Ranges in WA. The bracts with flowers concealed inside are yellow or green.

Hypocalymma xanthopetalum is a small shrub native to the coastal heathlands from Perth to Geraldton, WA. It grows to about 1m and features yellow, sometimes orange, flowers.

There were so many more and space does not allow me to describe them all. You'll have to come along to the next meeting and see for yourself.

A beautiful spray of *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* was chosen as 'Flower of the Month'. It was brought along by John Bell, who writes ...

Eucalyptus macrocarpa, is endemic to the south west of Western Australia where it enjoys well drained soils and a Mediterranean climate.



***E. macrocarpa*. Photo: Ade Foster**

Known in WA as Mottlecah, it is a straggly tree to about four metres with grey large leaves which reflect well in the headlights at night. The flowers are up to 100 mm in width and are glorious to see.

We find the honeyeaters and wattlebirds give them a hard time. It has a smooth shiny bark that sheds in short salmon coloured strips.

The name *Eucalyptus* is derived from the ancient Greek words 'eu' meaning 'good, well, very' and 'kalypto' meaning 'cover, conceal, hide' referring to the operculum covering the flower buds. The specific epithet is also derived from the ancient Greek - 'makros' meaning 'long' and 'karpos' meaning "fruit".



***E. macrocarpa* near Eneabba, WA – Photo: Ade Foster**

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Eucalyptus macrocarpa

PLANT SALE

April 9th

Our plant sale was an amazing success this year with a record twelve growers taking part. We also had our regulars, Bill and Sue, selling books, and added a coffee van and honey sales to the mix.

The weather was perfect and the crowds arrived early. There were cars waiting at 8:00 am and the sale didn't start (officially) until 8:30. By 9:30 the car-park was full and there were cars parked on the road. There was a steady stream of visitors until about 1:30 pm when things started to slow down a bit.



The 2022 sale in bright sunshine – Photo: Linda Pape

All the growers reported best ever-sales, and our profit from the day was over \$3000. It was a lot of work from a few members and we finished the day with drinks and nibbles, joined by a few equally tired, but happy, growers.


Our sale is growing every year, and we need a strategy to ensure that we don't burn out our regular 'volunteers' with over-work. We're all getting older, and the load is starting to tell. Please give some serious thought to helping out next year, even for just an hour. Every little bit helps.

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

These are just a few of the up-coming events that the club is running events 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.


Note the Members' Night for our June meeting. Please think about your favourite plant, your top five, something that is flowering well, any topic really, and tell us all about it.

Geelong Field Naturalists Club
Invites you to join the
Wider Geelong Flora Lecture
Tuesday 10th May 2022 - 7:30pm



Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Dearnaley
**Topic: "Wadawurrung Ethnobotany :
- plants of Wadawurrung Country and how they were used"**

email info@gfnc.org.au to receive the Zoom link.



About Dr. Jen Dearnaley.
Jen is Director of Balyang Consulting, and she completed her PhD on Wadawurrung Ethnobotany, looking at the many ways plants were used by Wadawurrung People prior to colonisation. Her research helps us to understand the customs and practices of the Wadawurrung People and how they cared for Country prior to European settlement. The research provides additional insights into the importance of the indigenous vegetation of the region.

MAY MEETING Unusual Plants for the Garden

Our speaker will be Royce Raleigh. Royce and Jeanne Raleigh have an amazing 5 acre garden in Wartook. It is filled with many rare and unusual plants ... hard to find plants not often seen in gardens. We are looking forward to a most interesting evening.

2022 MEETINGS

- June 21st** - Members' Night
- July 19th** - Miriam Ford - Prostantheras
- August 16th** - AGM and Photo Competition
- Sept 20th** - David Pye – 'Dryland Eucalypts'.
- Oct 9th** - Visit to Melton Botanic Gardens

GREVILLEA BRONWENAE Ade Foster

One of the Grevilleas in Neil Marroitt's Top 20 was *Grevillea bronwenae*. It is one of mine, too. So, I thought to keep this edition of 'The Correa Mail' on the Grevillea theme, I'd tell you about my *bronwenae*.

It is an erect shrub growing to 2 metres tall, typically with a narrow spread to about 1 metre. The narrow stems are held more or less vertically with leaves that are narrow with the edges curled under. The flowers

grow in clusters on the ends of the stems and are a rich red/orange, with dark blue pistil ends.



My plant is about 20 years old and has not been given much attention. It has grown outwards around a rather large *G. nivea*, seeking the sunshine, and it is tied back to the fence to try and correct its growth a little. It is about 3 metres tall by 1.5m, and is just starting to come into flower as I write.

It is a striking plant when in full flower and the richness of the flower colour seems to light that corner of the garden.



My *Grevillea bronwenae*, October 2020

G. bronwenae grows in low woodland between Nannup and Busselton in the far south west of Western Australia. It was discovered by Neil on one of his trips to Western Australia and first described by botanist Gregory Keighery in 1990. The specific epithet, *bronwenae*, honours Keighery's wife and fellow botanist, Bronwen.



My plant is grafted, and I think it came from Phil Vaughan's nursery when he was operating from Curlewis. They respond well to light pruning and can be kept quite compact with judicious use of secateurs.

If you don't have a *Grevillea bronwenae* in your garden, it's high time you did.

COMMITTEE VACANCY

With Phil Royce'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 😊