



Correa Mail

Newsletter No 383 - September, 2022

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hey, it's done and dusted. The usual speeches were minimal this year because:

- There was no President, and
- Treasurer restricted his report to bank balance.

Nicole conducted the vote for the 2022/23 Committee and the results are:

- President - Remains vacant
- Vice President - Carmel Addlem
- Treasurer - Frank Scheelings
- Secretary - Peter Nuzum

General Committee Members:

- Matt Leach
- Deb Peeters
- Ade Foster
- Bruce McGinness
- Sheila Deakin

PHOTO COMPETITION

Bruce had done a wonderful job (again) facilitating a wonderful activity for members. And Nicole has excelled in collating the submissions and sharing the results. I've included her link, and simple instruction, to save space:

<https://1drv.ms/p/s!BC2Cmwzu9ufIjRBIPUz-YrKZF7zU?e=AMDapa>

Hold the control key & double click on the link

PLANT TABLE

Bruce McGinness

The plant table was presented on by our knowledgeable plantsman, Matt Leech.



It was a full table, some of the highlights are described below:

Grevillea 'Peaches and Cream': Specimens of this perennial favourite were brought in by Frank and Dianne. A beautiful cultivar of *G. banksii* and *G. bipinnatifida*. The foliage can be an irritant to sensitive skin (me!).

Grevillea flexulosa – Zig Zag Grevillea: An interesting "zig-zag" growth habit coupled with masses of lemon flowers on this somewhat sprawling plant makes a striking specimen in the garden.

Grevillea magnifica: From the Latin magnificus meaning: 1. splendid 2. noble which it certainly is. This was brought in by Frank who reported the plant has 20 canes and that the flowers can last as cut flowers for eight days and darken in colour as they age.

Correa 'Snowbelle' PBR: This was brought in by Deb and there was some discussion on the correct name for this specimen, but the above name was the consensus. Registered recently (19/11/2021) with Australian

President: Position Vacant

Treasurer: Frank Scheelings – ftscheelings@gmail.com

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Cultivar Registration Authority (ACRA) with the origin given as: A result of a controlled pollination or manipulated cross Parents - Male: Correa C15c, - Female: Correa alba pale pink.



Acacia leprosa - 'Scarlet Blaze' Cinnamon Wattle: An interesting red flowering form of *A. leprosa* cultivated by Matt Leach who has propagated seed off this plant and the resulting seedlings were yellow as shown in the attached photograph. Roger Wileman reported that in his experience seedlings could be red as well. The leaves have a cinnamon smell when crushed. Matt said that the original plants with the red flowers are no longer growing in the wild.



Acacia applanata - Grass Wattle: This very attractive small shrub was brought in by Roger Wileman who purchased it a couple of years ago at the APS Geelong Plant Sale. A beautiful small shrub and I look forward to collecting some seed. An interesting note is that there

are several acacias with the common name "Grass Wattle". There were another 16 acacia species brought in, I will not list them all other than to say spring is well and truly with us.

Hakea rigida: I wasn't paying attention when this was discussed but the photo below makes it worth a mention.



I suspect it was brought in by Matt Leach and according to Ian Holliday's book on Hakeas it is considered a rare shrub where it grows in WA and has only been brought into a few collector's gardens since 2020.

Isopogon cuneatus x *Isopogon buxifolius*: A lovely specimen brought in by Matt Leach who said it was an excellent cut flower.

Guichenotia macrantha: A fine specimen brought in by Dianne Royce and is a reliable performer in the garden.

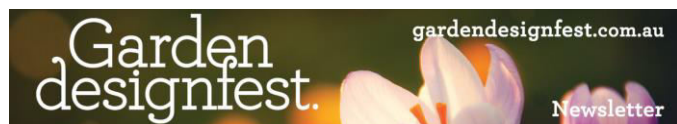


Hovea sp.: I don't know the species of this plant, but but I have included it because I like hovea. The leaves

glossy upper surface and the hairy-grey under surface show-off the purple flowers very well.

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

These are just a few of the up-coming events that the club is involved with. Please take note of the dates and put them in your diary so you don't miss out.



Garden DesignFest gives you the opportunity to visit designed private gardens not usually open to the public. 9 wonderful designed private gardens to visit in Ballarat and you can see all gardens for just \$50

19th & 20th November 2022 from 10:00am to 5:00pm

9 Gardens for you to enjoy in the Ballarat Area
Garden DesignFest - 19 & 20 Nov. 2022

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  Paddy Milne-Creswick |  Nicky & Darren Barnett-Buninyong |  Anne King-Scotsburn |
|  Paal Grant-Buninyong |  Janene Byrne-Ballarat Central |  Janene Byrne-Cardigan |
|  Mark Bickerdike-Buninyong |  Paddy Milne-Ballarat North |  Ricky McLeod-Buninyong |

12-13 November 2022 Metropolitan Melbourne and Mornington Peninsula
19-20 November 2022 Regional Victoria (Ballarat, Euroa and Macedon area)

See you in Ballarat over the 19 & 20 November 2022 Weekend. We will keep you updated with details of bus tours, garden highlights and special features as they occur.

Garden DesignFest Team

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Dryland Eucalypts

2022 MEETINGS

- Sept 20th** - David Pye – ‘Dryland Eucalypts’.
- Oct 9th** - Visit to Melton Botanic Gardens
- Oct 18th** - TBA
- Nov 15th** - Tony Hughes - Grafting
- Dec ??** - Christmas Break-up. Date TBA
- April 1, 2023** - 2023 Plant Sale, tentative date

WEEKDAY WANDERS EXCURSION

Steiglitz

We plan on having our first Springtime get together at the Bert Boardman Walk in Steiglitz on Wednesday 21st September. Meeting at 10am for morning tea (BYO) then a stroll to see what we can find. This area is flat walking so suitable for a long stroll or short walk. You can stay on for a picnic lunch if you would like to. Toilets are available in the picnic area. This will be after our September Tuesday night meeting.

NATIONAL FLORAL EMBLEM AND WATTLE DAY

By Nicole Leach

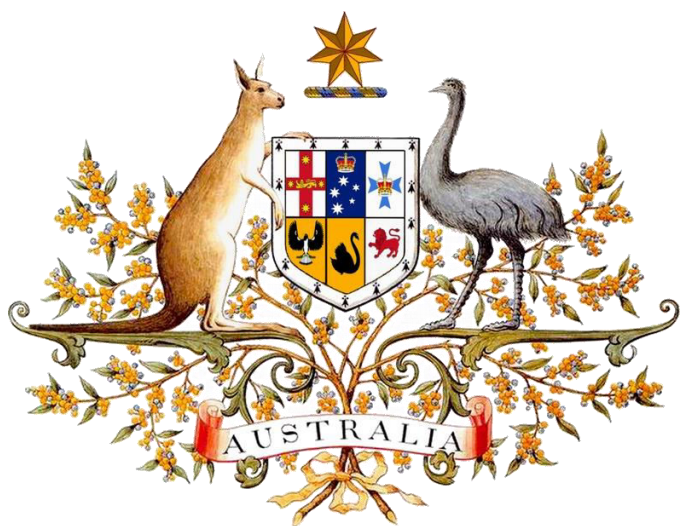
September 1st is national Wattle Day. The very first Wattle Day celebrations were held in 1910 in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney. The meaningful use of the Wattle as an emblem actually dates back much further to the 1830s in Tasmania. Acacia flowers and foliage began to appear on objects and sprigs of Acacia were encouraged to be worn for a commemorative regatta.

In February 1891, an article appeared in the Melbourne Herald which discussed Canada's choice of the Maple leaf as their national floral emblem, it was proposed that the Wattle should become the Australian floral emblem. In 1899, a Wattle club was formed in Victoria by Archibald Campbell, where Acacias were promoted through Wattle Day outings that were held on the 1st of September each year.

The approach of Federation in 1901 generated national and patriotic interest in the Australian environment and the search for a national identity

brought a yearning for national symbols. The first Australian coat of arms was awarded in 1908. In New South Wales in August 1909, a public meeting was held where it was debated whether the Wattle or the Waratah should be the national floral emblem. The national coat of arms was redesigned - which included branches of wattle (of no specific species) – and formally recognised in September 1912.

Sprigs of (likely) *Acacia baileyana* and badges were sold on Wattle Day to raise money for the Red Cross. Sprigs were sent overseas within letters to service persons during World War 1 and were also presented to service persons upon their arrival back home. In 1913, the Acacia was the unofficial floral emblem – even featuring heavily within the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. The inclusion of the Wattle on the coat of arms was a recommendation from Prime Minister Andrew Fisher.



During the 1920s and 1930s, Wattle Day was still a fundraising event for charities which featured ceremonies and activities for the children, such as planting native Australian trees and shrubs. This was a strong tradition in most states and territories, except Western Australia and the Northern Territory. This tradition was almost after the second World War, until Australia's bicentenary celebrations in 1988.

National pride and national symbolism didn't re-emerge until the 1980s. The first official move towards recognising the Wattle as an emblem didn't occur until April 1984. Sir Ninian Stephen, Australia's Governor-General at the time, proclaimed that the Australian national colours to be green and gold. In 1986 and 1987, Maria Hitchcock sent submissions to Prime Minister Bob Hawke to request:

- 1) that Wattle Day be officially recognised as September 1st, and
- 2) that *Acacia pycnantha* be recognised officially as the national floral emblem.



The Golden Wattle was officially declared the Australian national floral emblem on the 1st of September 1988. A proclamation ceremony was conducted on this date at the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra. It was the last of the floral emblems to be proclaimed as each state already had its own floral emblem.

It wasn't until 1992, National Wattle Day was finally agreed to by all states and territories and the date, the 1st of September – and the first day of spring – was settled.

Acacia was chosen as the floral emblem because as a single flowering species, it is one of the largest growing across Australia. When it is in flower, the Golden Wattle wields the national colours, the resilience of the wattle represents the spirit of the Australian people and is a symbol of unity.

A DRIVE TO EUMAMERRIN

by Ade Foster

Penny and I are in Roma in south-east Queensland, enjoying a bit of warm weather. Today was a little overcast and we took a drive to Eumamerrin, about 50 km north of Roma, to see a remnant population of the Steel Grass-tree, *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii*. These plants grow only about 2cm a year and some we saw were well over three metres tall ... incredibly old. The name steel grass comes from the very tough nature of the older foliage, which can, and was, be used like tie-wire, for binding bundles together.

The road we took was typical of the area - cleared farmland with remnant vegetation along the verges. Despite appearances, most of the vegetation is *Acacia* although it looks remarkably like Eucalyptus. Mulga - *A. anuera*, Brigalow - *A. harpophylla* and Myall - *A. pendula* are the dominant species, with Belah - *Casuarina cristata* - Bardine Red-gum, *Eucalyptus chloroclada* and Smooth-barked Apple - *Angophora costata* making up most of the canopy. There are also

dense stands of White Cypress, *Callitris glaucophylla* looking for all the world like northern hemisphere forest. And, of course, occasional Queensland Bottle-trees - *Brachychiton rupestris*, for which Roma is famous.



Wherever there is a break in the canopy you see Womal - *Acacia maranoensis*, a small plant indigenous to the area. It makes a spectacular show, especially where the forest has been cleared for farming but not used. Acres of bright yellow flowers contrast starkly with the black trunks and green/brown leaves of the Acacias. They grow to about 2m x 2m and would make a wonderful addition to any garden.



Along the way we encountered a few other plants that made us stop and look. *Acacia auriculiformis* - The Ear-leaf Acacia is one of those. The specimens we saw were 2 - 3 metres tall by about 1m wide, The phyllodes were 200mm long and 20mm wide, grey-green and ribbed. The flowers, on racemes 150mm long were arranged radially, reminiscent of the windmill grass. The whole effect was quite startling.

Being a 'grevillea man' I was taken by *Grevillea striata* - the Beefwood, that were flowering profusely in a small area. I've seen this plant as a large tree in outback NSW, but here they were a large somewhat straggly shrub. The masses of creamy flowers and long almost cylindrical leaves were most attractive. I want one!



A large, open shrub with a haze of purple/blue flowers was our next stop. *Hovea longipes*, Brush Hovea, can grow to about 5m, but the plants here were all around 1.5 m. Long straight stems appear from a common base giving a domes appearance to the shrub. They are topped by dark green leaves, tan on the back, and masses of purple/blue pea-flowers, fading to white.



Our final stop was for a plant that many of us have had in our gardens at one time or another - Wonga Vine, *Pandorea pandorana*.



As we know it is a vigorous climber, and here it showed that trait and then some, covering the top

branches of trees 10 metres above the ground. It really was quite a display.

VISIT TO A LOVELY MELBOURNE GARDEN

By Bruce McGinness

On Sunday August 14th, a small but excited group of members visited 'Mullum Waters', Bill Aitchinson and Sue Guymer's garden in Donvale.



For as long as I can remember they have tirelessly run the book sale for APS Victoria and are always a presence at the APS Geelong Plant Sale.

Bill and Sue kindly showed us around their garden on an overcast cold Sunday, but thankfully the rain held off.

For me it was a unique garden only 25 km from the CBD which gave a feeling of being in the bush. All this was created on a treeless weed infested block 30 years ago. The result is a credit to them and the skilled landscapers they employed to implement their ideas.



The landscape blends into the Mullum Mullum Creek reserve behind the block creating a habitat link. This is enhanced by a lake at the bottom of the block which

looks like it has always been there. A recently constructed billabong with two waterfalls created from an existing swimming pool by landscaper Phillip Johnson is a wonderful focal point that draws visitors down into the back garden.



A fascinating garden with two wonderful hosts. The day was finished off with tea and cake. A thankyou card with a \$50 Bunnings voucher was gratefully received. Thank you Bill and Sue.

VALE DORIS GUNN

Founding Member and Life Member – APS Geelong
From Nicky Zanen

I'm saddened to report passing of another legend, Doris Gunn; a staunch supporter of the SGAP, particularly in the 1980s and 1990s, with her husband, Bill Gunn. They lived in Ocean Grove. Doris was 101 years old.

Attendees at the ASGAP Conference in Ballarat will well remember as the audience gasped as Doris spoke about grey foliage plants, and showed a slide of a beautiful red flowering shrub, and casually said she would cut out the flowers and keep the beautiful foliage.



The funeral service is on 1/9/2022 at 11.00 am at the Geelong Memorial Park Chapel, Mt Duneed.

It was such a privilege to have known Doris and Bill. RIP.

COMMITTEE VACANCY

APS Geelong still has a vacancy for the position of its President. 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 your mind at rest 😊

CONTACTING THE SECRETARY

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