



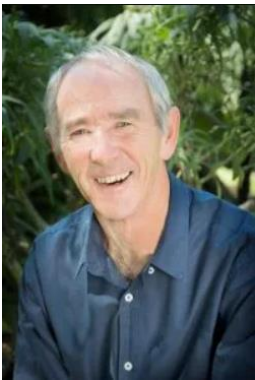
# Correa Mail

Newsletter No 390 - April, 2023

## MARCH MEETING

## Significant Trees

Our speaker at the March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was **Dr. Gregory Moore** from the University of Melbourne, and his topic was '*Significant Trees - Linking Past, Present and Future*'.



Greg was a Senior Lecturer and Lecturer in Plant Science and Arboriculture at Burnley, Principal of Burnley College of the Institute of Land Food Resources at Melbourne University and Head of the School of Resource Management at the University from 2002 to 2007. He has been a member of the National Trust of Victoria's Register of Significant Trees since 1988 and has chaired the committee since 1996.

Greg's talk focused on the importance of trees in an urban environment and the problems with protecting 'significant' trees. So, what is a significant tree? Basically it is any tree which is rare, unusual in form or habit, is large ie. canopy, height or girth, is significant in the landscape or has historical significance.

Trees in an urban landscape have many benefits and some may surprise you. Trees provide shade to cool houses and reduce the Urban Heat Effect, saving water and electricity. They reduce storm wind speeds to reduce damage to roofs etc., they humidify the air and remove pollutants helping with hay-fever and asthma. They consolidate soil and absorb water to assist with local flooding. Trees offset your carbon emissions helping to reduce your contribution to global warming.

Greg pointed out that there is a great deal of discussion about tree removal to reduce fire risk, but very little about the contribution trees make to reducing the amount of extreme heat-related illnesses. For example, studies like '*The Effect of Greenness on Women's Health*' have shown that areas with higher tree canopy cover have lower heatwave related mortality, lower crime-rates, quicker recovery after

hospitalisation, reduced social disadvantage, decreased stress longer life spans, higher average birth weights, better learning outcomes, fewer prescription medications, lower domestic violence incidents and higher levels of general health.



Significant trees can and are classified by the National Trust, but this classification offers no real protection. The best protection for trees can be gained by making them part of local planning overlays. So, Local Council registers are very important. Greg urged us all to nominate a significant tree if we know of one. 70% of nominations are successful.

Surprisingly, when a battle to save a tree is underway, trees can be given a monetary value related to their benefits to the landscape and environment. For example, trees in shopping precincts have been shown to bring shoppers, encourage them to stay longer and spend more. Trees in urban parks encourage more recreation and more exercise, reducing the community health bill.

Greg would have been happy to talk for hours and we would have been happy to listen to a most enlightening talk. But he ended with a statistic – 30%. A forest is defined as 30% canopy cover. Health benefits of trees to an urban environment require a 30% canopy cover. Real Estate prices increase until canopy cover reaches 30% and then begin to decline. So, is 30% an arboricultural magic number?

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It was a small table but nonetheless an interesting one, and our host, Bruce, ripped through it with ruthless efficiency. Most of the members reported a scarcity of flowers in the garden at present, and many bemoaned the loss of plants due to the unusually wet spring/summer.

Grevilleas still managed to feature strongly with many 'Queensland hybrids' and quite a few other interesting crosses. One lovely *G. armigera* x *G. calliantha* was admired by all, with its deep coloured flowers of yellow and black.



Banksias were also well represented with *B. marginata*, *burdettii*, *violacea*, *sphaerocarpa* and *nutans*. *Banksia nutans* is a small, bushy shrub from the southern coast of WA. There are several subspecies and colour forms. The specimen on our table had small, pale orange flowers.



There were a good number of Eremophilas on display among them *E. cuneifolia* (see Plant of the Month), *mackinlyi*, *macualta*, *calorhabdos*, *decipiens*, *bignoniiflora* and 'Meringur Midnight'



*E. bignoniiflora* – Photo: Wikipedia

Other notables were *Lambertia formosa* and *L. ovafolia*, interesting upright flowers of red and yellow; *Swainsonia greyiana*, with very deep, royal purple flowers and several *Scaevolas*. *Scaevola striata* is a vigorous ground-cover with deep, rich blue flowers, *S. crassifolia* is a dense shrub with sticky foliage and pale blue flowers. *S. aemula* comes in a variety of colours from deep purple through mauve, blue to white. Our specimen was a delicate pink and may have been one of the many pink varieties – Bombay Pink, Whirlwind, Sitting Pretty etc.



*Scaevola* 'Bombay Pink'



*Deb Peeters won the raffle and chose Eremophila cuneifolia as the Plant of the Month. The specimen on the table was brought in by Frank Scheelings, who wrote about it in the Plant of the Month in May 2022. I wrote about it back in 2017. So, here is a summary of those two articles. Ed.*

*E. cuneifolia*, known commonly as Pinyuru, is a native of the north-western part of Western Australia, from around Carnarvon, inland into the Little Sandy Desert. It's a spreading, somewhat sticky shrub with wedge-shaped leaves, pink/mauve bracts and quite deep mauve/purple flowers.

It was first described by Friedrich Wilhelm Ludwig Kraenzlin in 1929. The type specimen was collected by the explorer Charles Crossland, near Mount Hale on the upper reaches of the Murchison River, about 140 kilometres from Meekatharra. The specific name 'cuneifolia' is from Latin - *cuneus* meaning wedge and 'folium' meaning "a leaf" and refers to the shape of the plant's foliage. *Eremophila* means 'desert-loving'.

Both our plants were grown as a grafted plant by Roger Wileman. Frank has had his for about 4 years, Ade for about 8. The literature says flowers occur mostly June to October, but our plants flower most profusely in November/December, with a second flush in autumn.



**Roger's *Eremophila cuneifolia* in Ade's garden**

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.



## 2023 MEETINGS and OUTINGS

<b>April 1<sup>st</sup></b>	2023 Plant Sale
<b>April meeting</b>	Susan Meyer – Revegetation at Lal Lal
<b>April 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Visit to Lal Lal Revegetation block
<b>May meeting</b>	Fiona Murdoch – Mallee Conservation
<b>Aug meeting</b>	AGM and Photo Competition
<b>Sept meeting</b>	Marie Goodes – Little Desert Flora
<b>Sept 24-25</b>	Proposed Little Desert Weekend
<b>Nov meeting</b>	Miriam Ford – Prostanthera etc.

## PLANT SALE 2023

Our plant sale is on again on April 1<sup>st</sup>, and no, it's not an April Fools' Day joke. We will be looking for volunteers for the day, with a range of roles needing to be filled.

You can come along for as long, or as little as you like. But please, come along.

We'll need help with the gate, parking, the BBQ and many other tasks, including set-up on the Friday before the sale, and clean-up on the day after. There has been a roster generated, where you can indicate your availability. Please email our secretary, Peter, at [apsgeelong@gmail.com](mailto:apsgeelong@gmail.com)

We won't be holding our canteen this year. It has proven to be too much work for too few. But we will still be selling sausages, hamburgers and bottled water. The tea, coffee and sweet things will be handled by onsite coffee/donut vans.



From 8.00 am til about 12.00 midday, the gate and car-parking are, perhaps, the busiest part of the sale. Help here would be very much appreciated.

As always, we'll have a flower table displaying the wonderful things that are in flower in your gardens. Please bring along whatever you have to make it a great display of our native plants.

Please let us know if you're able to assist, and don't be shy. There's always plenty to do.

#### **APRIL SPEAKER and EXCURSION**

**Susan Meyer – Lal Lal Bushland Restoration**

Susan is a member of APS Geelong and has been doing bushland restoration on a 20 acre property near the historic town of Lal Lal, 20km south-east of Ballarat. She will speak to us, on April 18<sup>th</sup>, about the property, its history and the work she and a group of friends are doing to restore the bushland.

We will follow this with a visit to the property on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, where Susan will show us first-hand, the work that has taken place. We'll gather at Meredith for morning tea and a toilet stop, then on to Lal Lal. Those who wish can then journey on to Buninyong for lunch afterwards.

More details to follow.

#### **MAY SPEAKER via ZOOM**

**Fiona Murdoch – Mallee Conservation**

Our May meeting will be addressed, via ZOOM, by Fiona Murdoch from Mallee Conservation. Fiona and her husband Phil, are undertaking an impressive program on their 490 Ha property 'Raakajlim', at Colignan on the northern border of Hattah Kulkyne.

Their aim is to build a wider appreciation of the plants, animals and habitat of the Mallee of northwest Victoria through a digital presence, and by providing volunteering opportunities and citizen science projects.

The Mallee Conservation website and Fiona's blog are a goldmine of great stories and photos of this amazing project. I urge you all to have a look, be inspired and join Fiona for her talk on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.malleeconservation.com.au/>



**Triodia at Raakajlim – Photo: Mallee Conservation**

#### **THE FABULOUS WORLD OF FUNGI**

The **Moorabool Mushroom Festival** is being held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 in Ballan, at the Ballan Mechanics Institute. This two day festival will be looking at all aspects of fungi including ecology, citizen science, cultivation, foraging, food, medicine, mycoremediation and mycomaterials. There will be talks, workshops, nature walks, and food for sale.

The festival is being organized by MYCommunity Applied Mycology (a NFP organization), with support of Moorabool Shire Council, Fungimap, Geelong Field Naturalists Club, Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group, Wombat Forestcare, the Australian Psychedelic Society, Fun Fungi Ecology and Mycelium Laboratories and many more.

For a list of the workshops and speakers, visit:

<https://myco.org.au/fungi-festival/>

There will be an amazing array of speakers on all aspects of fungi, their cultivation, conservation, importance to the ecology, medicinal properties, identification and edibility.



## SPEAKERS for 2023

If you know of anyone who might make an interesting speaker for our 2023 meetings, please let us know. If you'd like to do a small presentation yourself, we'd love to hear it. Or if you have a topic you'd like to have covered, please let us know and we'll see if we can find someone to talk about it. Thanks To Lyhn and Susan for your suggestions 😊

## WORKING BEE

April ??

Di Royce and her daughter, Belinda, have been looking after the gardens at Northern Bay P-9 School recently. The company previously contracted to the job has gone belly-up and so Di and Belinda have stepped up to the plate.

Your committee has made a donation so that Di can purchase plants for the garden at our plant sale next month. The school's preference is for fast growing shady trees to improve the amenity and bio-diversity of the school grounds.

With guidance from members, suitable plants will be purchased and we will be taking part in a working bee to help prepare the area and plant the trees, and perhaps some weeding and general tidying up.

This will be a date yet to be decided and we will keep you posted. If you take part, you will need a current 'Working With Children' check. These are free for volunteers, and can be arranged online here ...

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

Stay tuned.

## TEMPORARY EDITOR

May / June

Penny and I are travelling to England for a nephew's wedding and then to Finland to visit with our son. So, we will be away for the May and June Meetings. I am hoping that someone will be able to take on the job of newsletter editor for those two months.

I'll provide you with a template, and as much information as I can, you just need to fill in the gaps. Easy peasy. ( No, really, it is quite easy)

Please let me know if you can help. It would be a shame if we had no newsletter for that time.

## MEMBERSHIP

If you've forgotten to renew your membership, we'd love to have you back in the APS Geelong fold. Membership forms are on our website at ...

[http://www.apsgeelong.org/Memberships%20Form%202022\\_23.pdf](http://www.apsgeelong.org/Memberships%20Form%202022_23.pdf)

## WHAT'S FLOWERING IN THE BUSH

Ade Foster

In an effort to fill this last half a page (like nature, I abhor a vacuum) I went for a wander to see what's in flower in Anglesea at the moment. The answer is .. not much. I did find a few orchids, two of which I mentioned in last month's newsletter. The other was a *Pterostylis* sp. aff. *parviflora*, the Brown-tipped Greenhood. This is a plant that is in the midst of a review and will probably soon be given species status.



The flowers are tiny, perhaps 5mm x 3mm, a single stem about 150mm long, and face towards the stem. While the flowers of *P.parviflora* are just green and white, this one has brown tips to the hood. The sepals are also brown tipped and extend above the hood. These tiny details and a slightly later flowering period, separate it sufficiently from *P.parviflora* that it is considered a separate species.