



Correa Mail

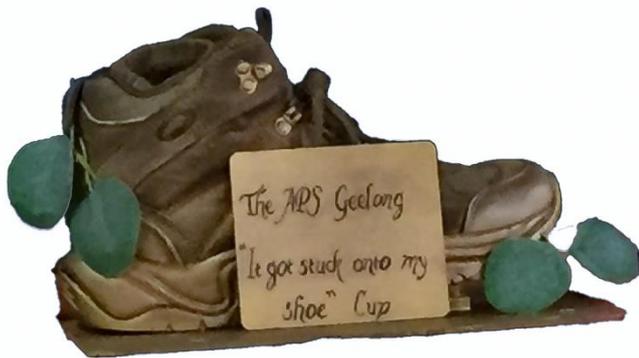
Newsletter No 389 - March, 2023

FEBRUARY MEETING

Fun and Games

Our second annual 'It Got Stuck Onto My Shoe' trophy was hotly contested by just twelve members. The 'plant based trivia' night was concocted by Nicole and Matt Leach, and was terrific fun.

Three teams – chosen by Nicole for their knowledge and cheating prowess – were given a series of questions to answer and puzzles to solve. *Spider*, *Dumb Nuts* and *Alyogroin* were fierce in their attempts to win the coveted prize.



Nicole, in classic school ma'am style, left no doubt as to the rules. 'No arguing, no cheating and I'm always right' was her mantra. Luckily for the rest of us, there was no rule against heckling.

Each challenge was different ... 'Who Reads the Newsletter' tested that question, with trivia questions based on Correa Mail articles. We had a video of Maria Hithcock being interviewed, and questions were asked to test our observation skills. We had a 'solve the plant anagram' challenge, a plant based crossword puzzle and word finder, and finally Plant Bingo with Matt at the plant table.

Scores were ridiculously close at the end, which just proves Nicole's prowess as a selector. The winning score was 49.0 with 0.5 points separating 1st from 3rd, and just 0.2 separating 1st and 2nd. In the end, it was Spider who was the victor – Roger, Penny, Carmel and Dianne.



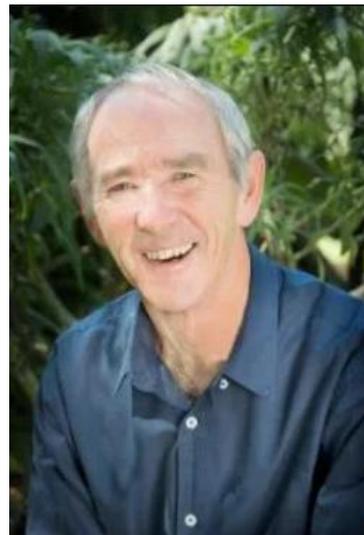
The Winners!

A great night was had by all and it's was a real pity that so few members attended.

MARCH 21st MEETING

Significant Trees

Our speaker for the March 21st meeting will be **Dr. Gregory Moore** from the University of Melbourne, and his topic will be 'Significant Trees'.



Greg was a Senior Lecturer and Lecturer in Plant Science and Arboriculture at Burnley from 1979, and Principal of Burnley College of the Institute of Land Food Resources at Melbourne University from 1988 to 2007. He was Head of the School of Resource Management at the University from 2002 to 2007.

Apart from a general interest in horticultural plant science, revegetation and ecology, Greg has a specific interest in all aspects of arboriculture - the scientific

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Australian Plants Society, Geelong - Website: www.apsgeelong.org

study of the cultivation and management of trees. He has contributed to the development of Australian Standards in pruning and amenity tree evaluation and has been a major speaker at conferences in Australia, Israel, Hong Kong, USA and New Zealand in recent years. He was the inaugural president of the International Society of Arboriculture, Australian Chapter.

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 has been on the Board of Greening Australia (Victoria) since 1989 and has been an active member of various sub-committees. He has chaired Treenet since 2005 and has been on the Board of SGA since 2002. He is a ministerial nomination as a Trustee for the Trust for Nature.

ON THE TABLE - Plant Bingo with Matt Leach

Our plant table this month was part of the Trivia Night challenge. Each team was given a bingo sheet with 25 plant names in five rows of five. As Matt took us through the table with his usual impressive knowledge we crossed the plants off our list as they were discussed. The first team to get five in a row, column or diagonal was the winner. *Spider* was victorious.

Plant table bingo

Team name:

Banksia burdettii	Grevillea georgiana x insignis	Banksia elderiana	Acacia implexa	Eucalyptus albopurpurea (purple)
Grevillea 'Moonlight'	Grevillea 'Wendy Sunshine'	Eucalyptus dolichorhyncha	Eucalyptus armillata	Alygone hugelii
Crowea 'Festival'	Grevillea 'Molly'	Xerochrysum bracteatum	Eucalyptus macrocarpa	Grevillea tetragonoloba
Banksia violacea	Corymbia ficifolia	Eremophila mackinlayi	Banksia pilostylis	Grevillea rosemarinifolia
Eucalyptus albopurpurea (white)	Adenanthos sericeus	Petalostylis labicheoides	Eucalyptus olivacea	Grevillea 'Peaches n Cream'

A couple of the plants were of particular interest to the group; the Rottnest Island Daisy, *Trachymene coerulea* and the Die Hardy Mallee, *Eucalyptus formanii*.

Trachymene coerulea, The Rottnest Island Daisy is found on Rottnest Island, but also on the mainland coastal plains from around Geraldton south to about Esperance.



Plants have an open habit and produce a tall erect flower stem with several branches with umbels of light purple or blue daisy-like flowers. The delicate appearance of these flowers gives them another of their common names, 'Blue Lace Flower'. It will tolerate quite poor soil conditions and does well in coastal environments.

Eucalyptus formanii was notable for the extremely fine foliage, which was not at all Eucalyptus-like. It is found on the ironstone slopes around the Mt. Manning Ranges around 250km north west of Perth, WA.



***Eucalyptus formanii* – Die Hardy Mallee**
Photo: Ian Brooker and David Kleinig

It is a tree or mallee from 3 – 10 metres with an open habit and flaky, fibrous bark. The unusual leaves are linear, 20-40 mm long but just 2-4 mm wide. The flowers are small and creamy-white appearing between December and April.

Eucalyptus formanii was first formally described in 1943 by Charles Gardner. The type specimen was found in sand dunes near the Die Hardy Range, 175 km north of Southern Cross by the geologists seeking gold in the area. The specific epithet (*formanii*) honours Francis Gloster Forman, Government Geologist of Western Australia, who brought Gardner the first specimens of

this plant. The Die Hardy Ranges, or Mount Geraldine, is a range of hills north of Mount Jackson where there are abandoned gold mines. In 2010, the range was declared a nature reserve.



The flowers and fine foliage of *E. formanii*
Image Trigg Plants - <https://triggplants.com.au/>

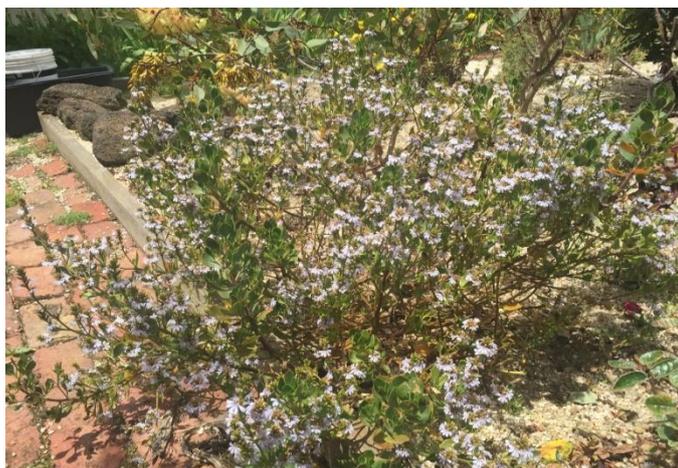
The plant is classified as rare or near threatened, mostly because of its limited range.

PLANT of the MONTH

Scaevola crassifolia

With all the excitement of the Games Night, again we forgot to choose a Plant of the Month. Executive decision time again. I chose a plant that is flowering in my garden ... one of very few with flowers at the moment ... *Scaevola crassifolia*.

My plant was a gift from Matt Leach and has proven to be a great addition to the garden. It has grown very quickly and I've not been shy with the secateurs.



Scaevola crassifolia, the Thick-leaved Fan-flower is a small shrub to about 1m x 3m, which may be erect or low-growing, depending on its position. It has bright green, wedge-shaped leaves which are sticky to the touch and highly scented when crushed. Grows in the coastal dunes, plains & limestone cliffs along most of the Western Australian coast, from Broome in the north west, all the way south and east and into South Australia.



It likes full sun and well drained soils. The main flowering season is from winter through to late spring, but there is often a second flowering during late summer. It is an ideal plant for native and especially coastal gardens and looks great when mass planted. It can withstand reasonably long drought conditions. It is a very vigorous plant and responds well to pruning.

2023 MEETINGS and OUTINGS

- March 21** Dr. Gregory Moore – Significant Trees
- April 1, 2023** 2023 Plant Sale
- Sept 24-25** Proposed Little Desert Weekend



**VICTORIAN NATIVE BONSAI CLUB
2023 EXHIBITION**

Friday Night March 24th 5:30pm to 8:30pm
Saturday March 25th 9am to 4pm
Preston City Hall, 284 Gower St Preston

Celebrating Australia's
eucalypts with ...

Adults \$7, children under 15 free.
Sales of bonsai, pots, tools available at the show

www.vicnativebonsai.com.au



KUNZEA POMIFERA as a HEDGE by Bruce McGinness

At the last APS quarterly meeting at Swan Hill, we visited Bungunyah Ridge garden in Koraleigh. I was intrigued by a *Kunzea pomifera* hedge at the property. I normally expect to see it as a sprawling ground cover but in this garden it was trained over a wire backing that was totally hidden by the Kunzea. It is a nice idea for a suburban garden fence or to hide an ugly feature in a garden. It could be trimmed back to a formal sculptured shape or allowed to run free depending on the whims of the gardener.



The Kunzea hedge

PLANT SALE 2023

Our plant sale is on again on April 1st, 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 will be a form at the next meeting, where you can indicate your

availability, or can email our secretary, Peter, at 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.

GRAFTING RESULTS

Back in November, our regular meeting was a workshop on grafting *Eremophilas*, conducted by Tony Hughes. It was a fun night, and a couple of members, Carmel and Nicole, were happy to share their success with us. Bruce was equally unhappy to share his lack thereof. Nicole writes

Here are some photos of my two (out of 3) successful grafts from our November meeting. I grafted two x *E. mirabilis* and one *E. 'Pink Pantha'*. I lost one of the *E. mirabilis* after about a month.



Matt planted the grafts into a seed-raising and perlite mix in a pot covered with a juice bottle (with a lid). 2.5 months later the remaining grafts were ready to begin hardening off. Once hardened off they were

potted up and are still alive. The rootstock grew roots in all 3 grafts, only the cutting (scion) failed in the one we lost.

It was such a fun activity, thanks Tony!

GRASSY PLAINS RESTORATION

I follow a number of Facebook conservation pages. One of them is the Grassy Plains Network, a group of land management professionals, academics, ecologists and community concerned about the ongoing decline of grassy ecosystems across Melbourne and its surrounds.

They have a host of interesting posts on their page, like this one ... a paper about regeneration of grassy plains by direct seeding. The paper was written by Paul Gibson-Roy, a Restoration Ecologist specialising in grassy ecosystem restoration and seed production systems and Frank Carland, an Environmental Consultant and Contractor, specialising in grassland management and restoration. You can have a look at it here ...

https://grassyplains.net.au/.../2023_Gibson-Roy_Carland...



Remnant grassland at Sunbury. Photo: Chris Clarke

Their website is also a great place for information about grasslands and their biodiversity. You can visit them here ...

<http://grassyplains.net.au/>

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 😊

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%2002022_23.pdf

AUTUMN ORCHIDS

Ade Foster

Now we're into autumn and the first of the autumn native orchids will be starting to flower in around Geelong. Anglesea Heathlands, Brisbane ranges and Inverleigh Flora and Fauna reserve are all wonderful places to hunt for our local orchids.



Corunastylis morrisii - Bearded Midge-orchid

A check of my orchid diary tells me March is when we'll find Midge orchids, *Corunastylis* sp. Parson's Bands, *Eriochilus cucullatus*, Bird orchids, *Chiloglottis* sp., and the first of the Greenhoods, *Pterostylis* sp.



Eriochilus cucullatus – Parson's Bands

So take advantage of our beautiful autumn weather, get out into the bush and go orchid hunting. We'd love to see and hear about your search. Good luck. 😊