



AUSTRALIAN
PLANTS SOCIETY
— Geelong —

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WELCOME TO 2020

Well, I don't know about you, but I've been scanning the skies since 12.01 am on January 1st, 2020, and I haven't seen a single Jetson's Jetcar. Most disappointing, I must say. However, welcome to 2020, and let's hope it's another great year for the club.

On a more serious and sad note, we lost two of our long-time and valued members in January. Our condolences go to Bev Wilson and family on the loss of Geoff, and to the family of June Parrott on her passing.

VALE GEOFF WILSON

This obituary, by Greg Dundas, appeared in The Geelong Advertiser on January 22nd, 2020.

Geoff Wilson's grand achievements as a scientist and academic leader left a string of impressive hon-orifics before and after his name. But those who knew him best said the former Deakin University vice-chancellor and -esteemed physicist would be best remembered for his gentle, caring nature, his wisdom, humility and humour.



Geoff and Jasper

Emeritus Professor Wilson died in his adopted home town of Geelong on January 9, aged 81, at the Epworth Hospital, Waurn Ponds. Coincidentally, it was his foresight that ensured land was set aside for the groundbreaking health and research facility. Hundreds of mourners gathered for his -funeral at St David's

Uniting Church, Newtown, where he and wife Bev were parishioners.

The couple moved to Geelong in 1996, when Prof Wilson became Deakin's fourth vice-chancellor. After a period of tumult and rapid growth, including the quick-fire addition of campuses at the Geelong Waterfront, Burwood and Warrnambool, the uni was seeking a leader to rebuild its research capacity and its standing in Geelong and academic circles. "By 1996 what Deakin needed was a time to heal ... and fortunately Geoff provided this amply and magnificently," colleague Philip Clarke said. "The gentle, caring leadership he provided was just what it needed at that time."

Before his seven-year stint at Deakin, Prof Wilson was based at Rockhampton as founding vice-chancellor at Central Queensland University. CQU's Ron Young said he was an "inspired choice", a collaborative leader who united staff, and whose reputation and thirst for knowledge drove the uni's research culture. Before entering uni management, Prof Wilson had a decorated career in physics.

From a modest upbringing in Melbourne, a scholarship in the mid-1950s allowed him to become the first member of his family to attend university. Inspired by advancements in nuclear technology, he -majored in physics, turning a bachelor degree in science into a master's, a PhD and a Doctor of Science, becoming a professor by 32.

Later, AM (Member of the Order of Australia), for service to tertiary education and physics, was added to the string of letters after his name. His interest in technology spanned from working with Australia's first computer CSIRAC early in his career to fiddling with the Apple watch he was given for his 80th birthday. More than 100 scientific papers were published in his name.

But his first priority was -always the family he and Bev raised across a 57-year marriage. It included children Glenn, Nicholas, Narelle and Kirrilly, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. The family has created the Professor Geoff Wilson Scholarship to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students pursue science study.

President: Bruce McGinness – bsmcginness@gmail.com

Treasurer: Frank Scheelings – fscheelings@gmail.com

Australian Plants Society, Geelong: P.O.Box 2012, Geelong . 3220

Secretary: Peter Nuzum: nuzumpj@outlook.com

Editor: Ade Foster – adefoster@internode.on.net

Website: www.apsgeelong.org

VALE JUNE PARROTT

by Matt Baars

11 Jan 1927 – 12 Jan 2020

On learning of June's sad passing, I started to reflect on my long association with her. When I joined the club in the early 1980's, June was already an established member. She was an enthusiastic member, being involved in our functions and our excursions. She also spent many years as a committee member.

June's interest in native plants and natural history started long ago. When I visited her Newtown garden, it was a typical 70s native garden. It was full of large gums and wattles, with a varied understory. It made an interesting statement amongst the neighbouring lawns and roses, especially with June's habit of leaving all prunings, including whole trees on the ground to rot down and provide cover and food for plants and animals.

June trained as a teacher and later trained other teachers, particularly in the arts. June loved the ballet and music, attending as many events as possible. She was a keen and accomplished sports woman, competing and excelling in many different sports. She was cricket fanatic, a member of the MCC who attended Test matches here and England. June was an avid traveller and visited many remote and famous sites around the world.



June at the Celtic Festival

In later life June became interested in Genealogy, particularly her Cornish ancestry. In fact she travelled to Cornwall many times, seeking out relatives and information. It resulted in her being inducted as Cornish Bard.

June was a strong, independent, active woman. She had a lot of interests and pursued them to the fullest extent. She knew her own mind and some of her deeds over the years will bring a smile to those members who witnessed them. *Photo: Geelong Advertiser*

NEXT MEETING:

February 18th

Our first meeting of 2020 will be a show'n'tell night. Members are encouraged to bring along a few photos and stories about what they have been up to, what they've seen, what's flowering in their gardens ... anything that might interest the members. All welcome and everyone is encouraged to take part.

2020 PLANT SALE

Our Autumn Plant Sale 2020 will be held on Saturday 4th April. Once again, it will be at Arthur and Linda's property at Lovely Banks. Formal invitations will go out this week, but already four growers have signalled their intention to attend.

There will be the usual call for volunteers to help out on the day, and with pre-sale and post-sale clean-ups. It would be lovely to see some new faces or some old ones more heavily involved. There is plenty of work that needs doing and, as the old saying goes, 'Many hands make light work'.

We'll be keeping you updated with details as the date draws closer, and there will be plenty of opportunities for you to put your hand up.

YOU CAN'T KILL A EUCALYPT.

Ade Foster

I often marvel at the resilience of Eucalypts and their ability to regenerate from the most appalling circumstances. This has been at the forefront of my mind recently with our catastrophic bushfires. But, I wasn't thinking of bushfires when I took my granddaughter for a stroll around Balliang Sanctuary, in Newtown, last weekend.

A large tree came down a while back, snapped off at the base. The council workers removed the canopy and most of the trunk, leaving just the bottom two metres lying beside the back pond.



The Eucalypt at Balliang

There must be a tiny remnant still connected to the root system, although it isn't visible to a casual glance. And lo, the tree is refusing to lie down. (Yes, I know it *is* lying down, but you know what I mean!)

The epicormic growth from one of the severed limbs is growing well, and if it continues, will make an interesting tree indeed. Tough things, Eucalypts.