



KUNZEA

Australian Plants Society Maroondah
Preservation by Cultivation



October 2020

Annual General Meeting

When will we meet again? It seems very unlikely that we will be able to have “in person” member meetings before next year.

Some of you may be wondering what will happen about our Annual General Meeting (AGM). All groups such as ours are required by law to conduct their AGM within 5 calendar months of the end of the financial year. So, we would normally need to have it before end of November.

However, due to CoVid restrictions making normal meetings impractical, it is possible to obtain an

extension to the time allowed. We will be applying for such an extension. Hopefully this will enable us to conduct a normal AGM, albeit a few months late.

However, it is possible that the extension may not be long enough to allow this. In that case, your Committee will need to consider an alternative forum for the AGM. This would be likely to be on computer via Zoom.

The Accounts for the year have been prepared and signed off. These and the Reports will be distributed to you in time for the AGM.

We will keep you informed.

Jumping Creek Road

Bev Hanson has alerted us to some alterations in Jumping Creek Road in semi-rural Wonga Park.

The photo was taken after the construction of the first section of Jumping Creek Road looking south. Warren Glen Nursery is on the left just after the crest in the photo, with a straight concrete footpath on that part.

Manningham City Council are asking for comments before they do the next sections towards Wonga Park.

Bev says: “To me the removal of vegetation, and construction of concrete kerbs, crossovers and retaining walls is confronting, and suburbanise what was an attractive country road. I would presume and hope they are going to plant indigenous plants back to soften the stark resulting look, but we should make sure this is going to happen.”

What do you think? There is a process for lodging comments. If you google “Jumping Creek Road upgrade”, Manningham have a site “Have your say” with information about the works, and welcoming people's thoughts on the project. You can see on the website one of the pictures beside Warren Glen Nursery that is particularly unacceptable with the straight concrete footpath.

Note that the Council is currently in election mode (until after 24th October), so it might be best to wait until after that to make any submissions.



Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens

Bill Aitchison and Bruce Schroder



Artist's impression of how the re-created Australian Garden would look.

Members may recall that in 2013, Phillip Johnson became the first Australian to win the Best in Show at London's Chelsea Flower Show. It has been Phillip's dream to recreate the winning exhibit in Australia, and this dream is close to becoming a reality.

It is planned that the Chelsea display garden will be recreated, on a much larger scale at 20 times the original size, as an Australian native garden extension of the Dandenong Ranges Botanic Gardens (formerly the National Rhododendron Gardens), spreading into the adjacent former Olinda Golf Course. The Botanic Gardens already includes a large selection of banksias, waratahs and a number of other Australian species.

As with the Chelsea garden, the centrepiece of the Olinda garden will be a waratah flower sculpture designed by architect Dylan Brady. The garden will feature over 400 species of native plants including more than 20 rare and endangered species. Admission to the garden for the public will be free.

The garden will be a source of training, and a research

and development space, for future horticulturists and landscaping apprentices. Technology is proposed to aid in remote access to the site to help further with training and knowledge for Australian native plants enthusiasts worldwide.

Phillip recently gave an online presentation to our APS Maroondah Committee in relation to the plans for the new garden, and the Committee was impressed with the manner in which the project will showcase Australian native plants to the public, as well as highlight aspects such as sustainability, use of water and biodiversity.

The Committee has discussed in principle making a donation from APS Maroondah's funds towards the establishment of the new garden, and are in support of this. However, before committing to such a donation, we would like to have the more general support of members. We are hopeful that there may be an opportunity in the not too distant future to present to members more detail relating to the project, and Phillip has indicated that he is



Aerial view – before . . . and after.

happy to be part of a presentation to members.

In the meantime, if you have any questions relating to the project or to APS Maroondah's possible involvement, please talk to any Committee member or email apsmaroondah@gmail.com. Note also that any personal donations to the project over \$2 are tax deductible and may be made via the following website: <http://www.peopleandparks.org/projects-activities/chelsea-best-in-show-garden>

Other references are Phillip Johnson's website (<https://www.phillipjohnson.com.au>) and also an article published in "The Age" on 5th September 2020 (<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/champion-landscaper-wants-seed-capital-to-build-free-public-garden-20200903-p55ryc.html>).

The images below show some aspects of the current site and an impression of the same aspects once the garden has been developed.



Lawn view – before . . . and after.



Overall – before . . . and after.

Chorizema varium

Joe Wilson

Chorizema varium is known as the Limestone Pea (also known as Bush Flame Pea). It is listed as Endangered under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and Declared Rare Flora under the WA Wildlife Conservation Act 1950.

In my garden, it is an erect spreading shrub with long branches, growing against our plastic water tank. It has greenish grey leaves to about 40mm long and 30mm wide with regularly serrated margins. It started flowering in early August and has hit its peak by mid-September. And what a show it makes! The inflorescences are profuse in erect clusters of reddish-yellow pea flowers on the ends of the branches.

Yet when you read the Google sites on this plant from the South West province of WA they tell a completely different story. It grows naturally on the Swan Coastal Plain and is usually a prostrate or spreading to low spindly, scrambling shrub.

Our plant is now 1.5m tall and 1m wide at 4 years old, and is attached to plastic trellising around the tank. This plant has proven its adaptability. It is growing in a



lightly sheltered position but gets plenty of morning to mid-afternoon sun. I never need to water it as our tank is prone to overflowing sometimes in very heavy rains. I lightly prune after seed collection. Otherwise it is ignored.

Rooftop Wonderland

David Lightfoot



Some of you may be aware that the Boss (aka my wife Sue) decided we needed a new house. (When the kitchen and then study ceilings collapsed, I had to agree with her; something had to be done.) We had lived in our home in Surrey Hills for almost the whole of the 21st Century, moving in in February 2001 just before our first daughter Alex was born. The block is sloping and sunny and at almost 1000m², quite large for the area. I had succeeded in gradually removing non-Australian plants from the garden over the years (apart from some birch trees and a couple of other large things) and had even managed to have the garden open to APS Maroondah and then, in 2011, the Open Garden Scheme.

Behind us is the indigenously revegetated South Surrey Park and we were blessed with excellent neighbours on both sides. So, we didn't want to move.

We settled on knocking down and then rebuilding the house. A process which took about a million years (well it felt like that long), pushed us to the verge of a nervous breakdown and which I promise NEVER EVER to do again.

Now, if we were going to have an architect designed house, I wanted it to be energy efficient and sustainable and so broached the idea of a green roof. This was quickly vetoed, as Sue had visions of me falling to my death whilst weeding the roof and remembering that our ceilings had recently collapsed in the old house, imagined what the weight of a green roof could do. So... the architect suggested a roof garden over the garage - not so high and unlikely to kill someone if it collapsed. Even better, it would be accessed from the parents' bedroom, and so would be our private retreat.

We were lucky to have enlisted Phillip Johnson as our landscaper, and he and his team have experience in rooftop gardens. He was happy for the builder to build the garage and then he would take over for the garden. Our grand design was off and running. Not being an engineer or builder, I thought one could just slap a garden on top of the garage. I could never have guessed the complex engineering, weight calculations (with and without water), drainage, waterproofing, space fillers etc that was required. Not to mention the regulations around steps, drops and fencing. Yikes. But kudos to the team who designed it to the millimetre of soil and rocks that could safely be laid.

First the garage was constructed with a waterproof concrete ceiling. Then a "besser" style block wall was built above the garage walls. It was high at one end due to overlooking, but some of the neighbours asked if we were putting in a pool up there! There were shorter sections on both sides to allow for glass fencing, and closest to the house, a deck was built. We step down from the deck over rocks to get into the garden. The builder rendered the walls and added the glass balustrades before handing over to the team from Phillip Johnson Landscapes (PJJL).

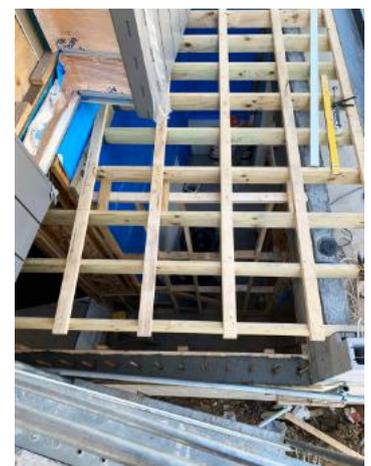
Over a surprisingly short period of time in Feb 2020 waterproofing was painted over the concrete, followed by a corrugated fill layer (to minimise weight and bring up the levels) and over that another waterproof barrier and finally filtering geotextile was laid. Then we were ready for the garden. However, just filling the space with garden soil would have been a disaster. It would have been too heavy, hold too much (or too little) water, be the wrong pH etc. (Once again something I hadn't really thought about at the start). The team at PJJL arranged a bespoke mix from Biogro, a specialty growing media company. The result was a "soil" mix of 40% composted pine bark, 20% cocopeat, and 40% fine scoria. So, some organic material, water holding peat and lightweight, aerated bulk. To this has been added native slow release fertiliser, lime, wetting agent, Iron and trace elements, gypsum and



October 2019 – garden walls started



Construction begins





February 8th, 2020 – fill layer over painted waterproofing



February 21st, 2020- Rocks & growing media are craned in and mounding created



February 23rd, 2020 – sand layer and overflow drain

calcium. The pH is 5.5 and the drainage is perfect. It's essentially a great big pot full of high-tech potting mix!

The "soil" was craned onto the garden in giant Ikea-like bags, along with 5 large rocks (the steps and landscape features). The soil was mounded, and a small depression rubber lined to act as a rain filled pool/bird bath. Over the soil went a layer of sand, then crushed rock mulch. Driftwood (we like to say it got up there from the biblical floods of Noah's time) and small stones completed the hard landscaping. Small touches include a vertical piece of wood camouflaging the overflow drain – it's there in case the main drain blocks so it doesn't fill like a swimming pool.



Sand and crushed rock mulch.

The garden was completed and ready to plant out in early March 2020. The crushed rock and sand surface gave it an amazing desert like quality with driftwood and a dry "creek" leading to the pond – an oasis in the centre. The finished garden was better than I could have imagined.

On March 22nd, an overcast day of 17°C, I planted the first resident, *Conostylis setigera* 'Lemon Lights', next to the large central steppingstone. I soon worked

out that just digging and planting led to the substrate mixing with the sand and crushed rock which ruined the surface look. So, after the first couple of plants I learnt to gently move aside the top layer, before digging into the soil mix. Then the new plant went in, and sand and rock went back over the top. Perfect. Over the next week I put in more than 150 plants. Not bad for a 6 x 5m



March 17th, 2020 – ready for planting!

garden. The relatively thin soil layer of around 30-45cm meant I didn't want large shrubs. So, most of them are small herbs, or grassland plants, as well as small floriferous "drop dead gorgeous" species that I knew would love the conditions on the roof. Towards the high wall at the far end are some 50-60cm tall species.

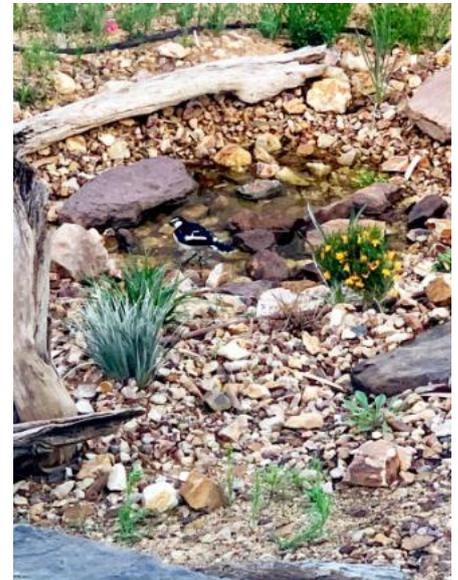
I purchased some plants, but many I had been saving up, grown from cuttings taken on trips, or given to me from other native enthusiasts. Looking at the labels took me back to some great family trips, with plants like



In goes the first plant



March 31st, 2020



Maggie-larks have moved in.

Tetratheca halmaturina from Kangaroo Island, “Hot pink *Hypocalymma* sp from Pindar WA 2015”, *Dampiera* sp. 1 from the FJC Rogers weekend in Horsham, *Velleia foliosa* picked up in Albany at the ANPSA conference last year, and *Conostylis crassinervia* from Don and Joy Williams’ Hi-Vallee.

Not all the plants were “exotics” from the far reaches of the country, as I planted many local species like *Arthropodium strictum*, *Bulbine bulbosa*, *Brunonia australis*, *Craspedia variabilis*, *Epacris impressa*, *Pelargonium rodneyanum*, *Pimelea humilis*, *Goodenia lanata*, *Velleia paradoxa* and *Stylidium armeria*. I went mad on conostylis, lechenaultias, scaevolias, a couple of verticordias, *Petrophile linearis* and *P. longifolia* and even a grafted *Swainsona formosa* (which unfortunately died soon after).

Under the deck I buried hundreds of pterostylis tubers that I had rescued from the old garden before its demolition, and lovingly kept in pots in my shade house at our rental accommodation. Most of the bigger plants were in by early April. I then put in a dripper line, as the garden will need irrigation in the hotter months.

Finally, I sowed a mix of annual daisies such as *Rhodanthe chlorocephala*, *Schoenia filifolia*, and *Brachyschome iberidifolia*.

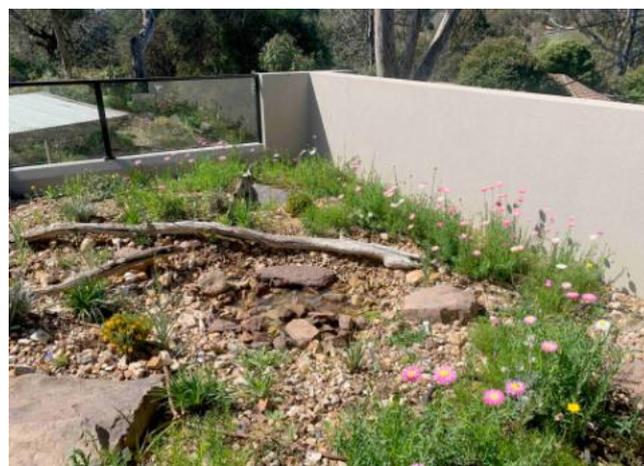
Well what happened next? As you know we have had moderately good rainfall over late autumn and winter. In general, the plants have thrived. Apart from the Sturt Pea and *Lechenaultia macrantha*, pretty much everything else has survived so far. The garage is on the south side of the house and during the depths of winter only the far end received sun for more than a few hours in the morning and afternoon. As we move into spring more



Spring colour August 28th, 2020

and more plants are getting full sun. The daisies have germinated and cover the sunny far end of the garden. As they flower, the hover flies and other local insects buzz around. Spiders, ants and even lizards have moved in. The lechenaultias are flowering their heads off, and many other plants have flower spikes and buds growing. I can't tell you the hours of joy I have already had from pottering around up there, watching things germinate, grow and flower, watching birds in nearby trees and the world go by. The local Magpie-larks seem to have adopted the garden and chase away the Noisy Miners (Yay) and a number of bird species come to the pond to drink.

The change in only 6 months has been startling. The test will be summer, and whether I can get the balance between under- and over-watering right. I know I have killed many things in my previous garden with too much summer watering. I suspect that won't be too much of an issue here with the shallow soil and excellent drainage, but time will tell.



September 14th, 2020

Eucalyptus caesia ssp caesia

Elsbeth Jacobs, pictures by Ken Gosbel

Thanks to Alison Rogers for her article on *Eucalyptus caesia* in the last *Kunzea*. I agree that it is one of the best trees for small gardens, and sometimes wonder if it has introduced more people to Australian plants than any other species?

There has been a lot of confusion and name changing within this species. Firstly, the attachment “Silver Princess” tends to suggest a man-made cultivar or selected form, but in fact ALL *E. caesia* ssp *magna* are “Silver Princess”; it is more just a common name and has no botanical standing. So the correct botanical name is *Eucalyptus caesia* ssp *magna*. We refer to it as Silver Princess.

But there is also what could possibly be called “Little Princess” – *E. caesia* ssp *caesia*.

About 10 years ago the decision was made to only recognise one species, *Eucalyptus caesia*, with no subspecies. However, several botanists have rejected this, and to quote Malcolm French in his book *... “it appears no consideration has been given to the distinct adult and seedling morphological differences...and also to the distinct biogeographical pattern of morphological variation which also supports the recognition of the two subspecies.”

Hence I prefer to go along with those who recognise two subspecies:

Eucalyptus caesia ssp *magna* (common name Silver Princess)

- Grows on the tops and slopes of granite outcrops.
- Juvenile leaves to 120mm long to 100mm wide.
- Adult leaves 100–220mm long, 20-46mm wide.
- Occurs in central-eastern wheatbelt in WA.

Eucalyptus caesia ssp *caesia*

- Grows on or at the base of granite outcrops in areas quite distinct from the above subspecies.
- Juvenile leaves to 60mm wide. Adult leaves 65–140mm long by 12–30mm wide.
- Occurs in central wheatbelt of WA, generally in more southerly regions than ssp *magna*.

In other words, *E. caesia* ssp *caesia* has smaller leaves, buds and fruits and it does not have the dramatic weeping habit of *E. caesia* ssp *magna*. These features make it very desirable for gardens where even *E. caesia* ssp *magna* may be too large.

Ken Gosbell has a beautiful specimen of *E. caesia* ssp *caesia*, and is willing to collect seed for APS Maroondah members.

* French M.E. (2012). “Eucalypts of Western Australia’s Wheatbelt”



Eucalyptus caesia ssp *caesia* in the Gosbel garden, Blackburn.



Bark on the trunk.



Gosbel garden.



Flowering branches.



A perfect picture!

Spring flowers in a Blackburn garden

Graeme and Jan Nicholls



Prostanthera melissifolia – a Gippsland species, grows well in heavy soil and moderate shade.



Eucalyptus preissiana – two subspecies: *ssp.preissiana* 3–4m, and *ssp.lobulata* 1m and spreading. Stunning large flowers.



Calytrix tetragona – this is a prostrate pink form.



Westringia longifolia – 1.5m x 1.5m, white flowers last for many months, grows and flowers well in quite shady dry situations.



Eremophila georgei – 1m high, flowers most of the year, grows well in part shade.



Hibbertia grossulariifolia – groundcover which layers and spreads. Hardy.



Olearia homolepis – border plant which contrasts nicely with yellow flowers such as hibbertia or *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*.



Grevillea flexuosa – 3m high and spreading, grafted. Real show-stopper on street frontage.



Olearia phlogopappa – pink form, flowers completely cover the entire plant.



Grevillea treueriana – grows to 1m x1m, flowers for many months, very prickly foliage.



Libertia paniculata – clumps quickly, intense white flowers briefly in spring, performs well in total shade.



Grevillea tenuiloba – weeping habit, grafted as a standard. Great feature plant.

Seeing the Light

Tan Marlin

I'm a fairly new APS member. I joined after enrolling in the "I want to make a native garden" course run by Joe, Graeme and other members of APS Maroondah last year. It was really informative and enjoyable and ignited my passion for Aussie natives. Attending many of the member garden visits along the way has also given me lots of good ideas and helped me determine my likes, wants and needs.

Earlier this year I began to get stuck into my small back yard. It has a north facing wall so the existing grass did not get enough sun in winter and the weeds had completely taken over.



Backyard Before

I chose to get rid of the weeds by hand rather than poison because I have a dog. It was hard work but rewarding. I wanted to keep a small area of grass for my dog so I am growing *Microlaena stipoides* inside a corten steel ring. She loves this area already.

Outside the ring I have a grafted *Grevillea* 'Lolly Pops' next to a bird bath and so far this has attracted Noisy Miners, Indian Mynas, Magpies, Doves and the occasional Wattlebird. I am hoping to attract more

native birds over time as I am very close to Gardiners Creek. My other feature plants are *Eremophila nivea* and *Acacia cognata* 'Waterfall', both also grafted. Planting in this area has gone in over autumn/winter so hopefully with spring now here things will really begin to take off.

I have heavy clay soil so I have mulched heavily with wood chips over the top of cardboard and newspaper. The plants near the back wall are in full shade over winter and full sun in summer so I have had to carefully choose my plants, including *Grevillea* 'Ivory Whip', *Correa* 'Catie Bec' and *Indigofera australis*. I am also



New Plants

trying my luck with some *Epacris longiflora* in the ground.

I now have my front yard to tackle, a much larger area. I've begun removing old tree roots and stumps and then breaking up the heavy clay soil with a "power planter" auger attached to a drill. I'm improving the soil by adding in gypsum, sulphur (I want to grow some banksias), compost and more soil. This should keep me busy for quite some time.



The dog bed!



Epacris longiflora

Ray and Eva's Garden



Prostanthera magnifica



Leptocerus menziesii



Burchardia umbulata





Actinodium cunninghamii



Darwinia neildiana



Darwinia purpurea



Boronia megastigma lutea



Conostylis candicans

Clearing the Way

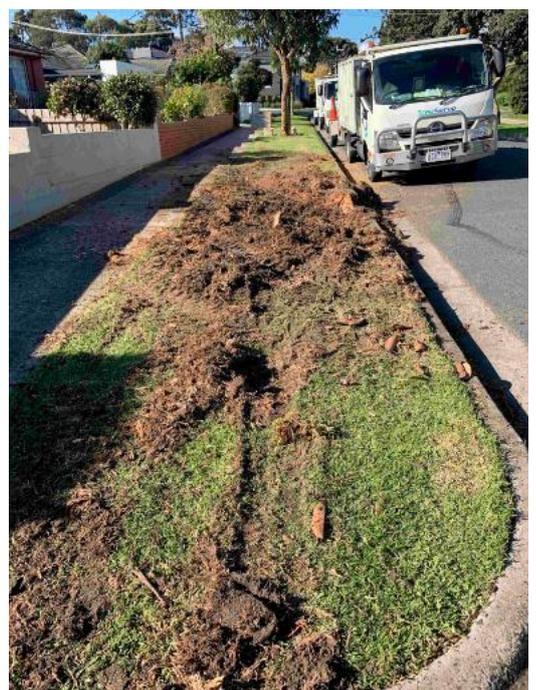
Tan Marlin

I would like to say a special thank you to Peter Smith and Bruce Schroder for helping me get Monash council to remove a very large *Ficus elastica* from my nature strip. The invasive aerial roots extended well into my front yard as well as the neighbours. Without their wonderful advice I am certain that the tree would still be there.

I now need to wait for the soil to settle before a new street tree is planted. Fingers crossed it is a much more suitable native.



Ficus elastica



Ready for a new tree.

Here and There



Sturt Desert Pea in July

Barry's Sturt Desert Pea

Following on from Bruce's SDP update in September's *Kunzea*, Barry Ellis has provided a picture of his plant from the 2019 crop. Last month's picture showed lots of buds (taken in late July) but the plant is now covered in flowers.



Sturt Desert Pea in September

Barry has also taken been walking and taking photos at Blackburn Lake.



Wattles at Blackburn Lake.



Comesperma volubile



Clematis aristata



Stackhousia monogyna

Acacia aff verniciflua

Graeme Nicholls

Some years ago we acquired from Judy Barker a small plant which she had labelled *Acacia aff verniciflua*. She said that this was one of her favourite wattles. When we grew it on, we could see why.

Our plant grew quickly to about 3m tall and a bit less in width. The feature for us is the fascinatingly curved leaves (phyllodes). The flowers are yellow balls which appear in spring. There is no information readily available about this species, so I asked Bill Aitchison if he knew about it. Here is some of what he said.

"It is also called Sigma Weeping Wattle. It comes from a small population of plants near Avenel (not far from Seymour), and is referred to as *A. aff verniciflua* because it is very like *Acacia verniciflua*, but varies in having 1-nerved phyllodes rather than the usual 2-nerved phyllodes. In 2009 Bruce Maslin and Dan Murphy published, in "Muelleria", a revision of *Acacia verniciflua* and *Acacia leprosa*, and in this revision they elected not to recognise the form found near Seymour with any formal rank. It has been given the common name Sigma Weeping Wattle, and was also at one time being marketed as *Acacia 'Spicy'*. However, I don't know how commonly available it currently is, and I haven't seen it being sold as *Acacia 'Spicy'* in recent years. In Acacia Study Group Newsletter No. 108 (March 2010) it was described as follows:



A small softly weeping shrub (1.5m x 1.5 - 1.8m) with aromatic foliage and bright yellow perfumed flowers in spring. Grows in well drained clay or sandy soils, in temperate to subtropical and semi-arid climates. Likes full sun or light shade, and withstands heavy frost. Suitable for second line coastal planting."

I have since grown another plant from the seed. If it sets seed this year, I am happy to supply some to anyone who wants to propagate it.

Bushfire Recovery

It was great to see an article in the spring edition of RHSV's magazine "Gardeners' Gazette" about the growing and provision of Australian plants for restoring gardens in fire-affected areas of Gippsland.

The article mentions that many groups have helped to make this happen. It names a couple of APS groups in the list. As previously mentioned, APS Maroondah donated \$1,000 to this cause.

Thanks for the Contributions

It has been lovely to receive quite a lot of contributions to *Kunzea* for the last couple of months. We even have one new contributor this month.

Please keep the contributions coming.

Just a reminder to please send content to Sue Guymer at aitchguy@gmail.com. Also, please send separately the highest resolution version of your photos so that they will reproduce clearly.

The deadline for the next *Kunzea* is Friday 23rd October.

Kennedia coccinea

Michael Cook

Trevor Blake put the kybosh on the *Eucalyptus caesia* specimen I brought in, implying it was far too common! In June 2019 we had a wet month when the said tree died. (Obviously the tree was distraught by Trevor's comments – editor.)

I dug around the base of the tree and discovered wet clay as the landscaper who'd planted it had done no soil improvement ahead of planting it in this then new estate.

Joe Wilson suggested I might plant *Kennedia coccinea* to climb up the bare branches.

At Kuranga, Liz Devlin suggested also planting *Eucalyptus pumila* next to it so that when the dead eucalypt finally falls over the kennedia can serve as a ground cover at the base of the new eucalypt, which hopefully Mr. Blake will approve of!



Orchids and Photography

Judith Cooke is a member of the “Friends in Focus” (FIF) which is part of Friends of Cranbourne. FIF meets regularly (when allowed) at RBGV Cranbourne to enhance their photographic abilities. They always welcome new members so if interested you can contact Friends of Cranbourne at membership@rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au.

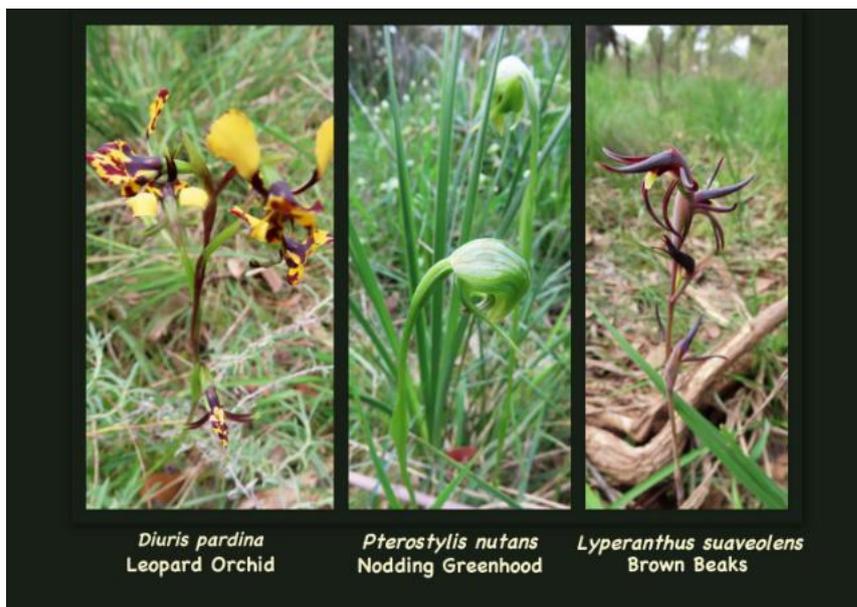
Judith provided us with the following tips, which is an example of the interesting articles that are in the FIF newsletter.

Tip for Good Garden Photography

Follow composition rules and take great photos of your garden.

Some of the composition guidelines that will improve your garden photography are easy to apply. You can start with the classic Rule of Thirds.

<https://expertphotography.com/garden-photography>



Judith's composition is of three orchid species, taken in FJC Rogers Reserve, Heathmont, in September this year.

Joe's Billy Buttons

Deb Jerkovic

A few months ago I got some tubes from Joe Wilson of *Pycnosorus globosus*, also known as Billy Buttons. The flowers remind me of the book by Dr Seuss “Horton Hears A Who”.

One plant has been in the ground for about 3 months. In that time it has continued to grow and put up flower spikes. The longest one is 1.45m!!! I now have to somehow provide the plant with support as the weight of these flowers is too much for the poor plant.

Unfortunately I planted the first one (and later four others) right next to the path, expecting a pretty little display. Today I counted nearly 30 flowers on the oldest plant, and they have fallen right across the path. Can't wait to see what it will look like when all of them are in full flower.

I don't know where Joe got his seed, but these plants are mutants! And if they are home to the Whos, then they must have a wonderful world to live in. Thanks Joe.



Wood Scorpion

Ray Turner

You may be interested in this little Wood Scorpion that I found a bit caught up in a spider's web a couple of days ago.

I wasn't that game to get all the web off, especially on his tail, so I hope he survived. I've only ever seen a few since we have been here.

He reminded me of one night some years ago when Eva was doing a bit of darning. When she had finished and was putting things away she thought there was some black cotton on the floor, and ... you guessed it !!!



Eremophila ionantha

Graeme Nicholls

This is a shrub that can reach 2 m x 2.5 m. It has fine cylindrical foliage and blue/purple flowers from late winter to early summer. Our plant has grown quite quickly from a forestry tube, and is now about 30 cm high and flowering vigorously.

This an Eremophila species that should be grown more widely. It is one of the few eremophilas which will grow in heavy shade. It can cope with alkaline soils and heavy clay, is frost tolerant and very drought tolerant and does not need any supplementary water. It is long lived and tolerates wind well. It responds well to pruning, so it can be kept compact. It strikes very easily from cuttings.

In short it is a very tough, adaptable plant requiring minimum care. What is there not to like about it? Unless you don't like dainty, pretty plants!

These notes are from "Australia's Eremophilas" by Boschen, Goods and Wait.



Bird Nesting Box

Michael Cook

When we moved to Botanic Ridge nearly four years ago, I rigged the bird hollow to a ledge on our house.

There was a pair of Eastern Rosellas trying to make a hole in the wall of the newly built house next door. They seemed to take no notice of the ready home I'd rigged for them. Instead we had two lots of Mynas invading "the precious". However, I made the bottom like an escape hatch that I could pull out to dump the eggs.

I thought there had to be a better way... I was "baffled".

I read online that Rosellas can climb whereas Mynas only fly straight to and from a nesting hole. A baffle was in fact the answer.

And it works. I witnessed an Eastern Rosella crawling out of my assembly. Often its mate perches on the top to keep watch with a "pup..py" call to let the other know all's well.



I caught this on the motion trigger camera I borrowed from RBGV Cranbourne.

Best Year for Leptospermums

Deb Jerkovic

This year we have had beautiful displays from many of our plants. The one that has stolen the show is *Leptospermum* 'Pink Cascade'. It is breathtaking the way it really does cascade down in layers full of pink flowers. The bees, in particular, are having a wonderful time, and when you walk past it - it hums.

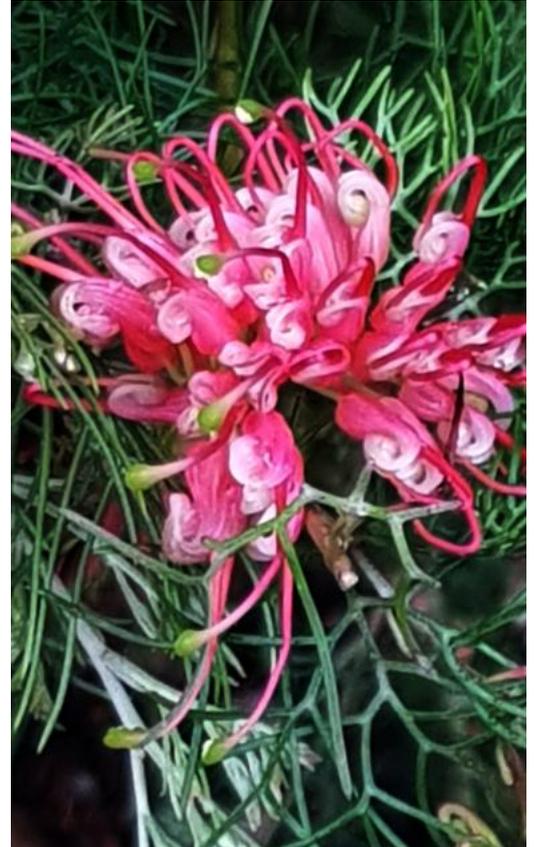
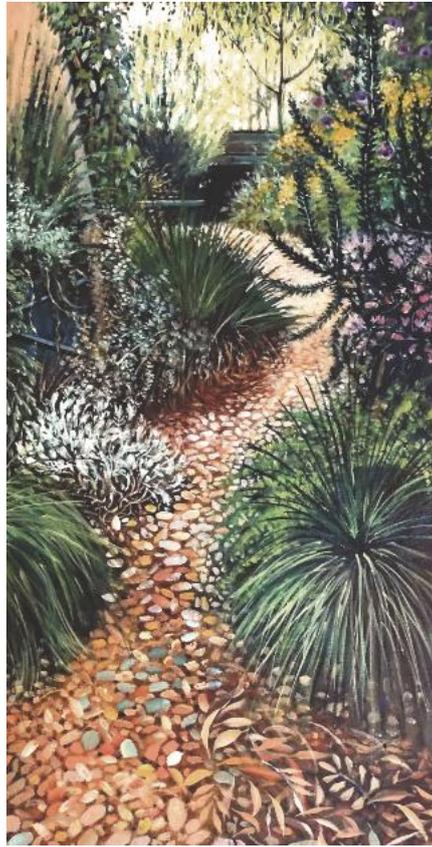


Garden Painting

Michael Cook

This is a painting Stella Clarke did of the Ephemeral Creek in our garden. Stella is a well-known landscape artist whose Blue Stone Cottage Studio Gallery is in Haddin near Ballarat. We named the painting "The Ephemeral Garden".

Stella's comments on the garden were: "This was a lovely commission to paint, I got quite immersed in this loved scene from a garden. The wonderful thing about gardens is that they are themselves artworks in motion, especially if a lot of care, thought and nurturing have gone into them. Any viewpoint, any moment, however lovely, is transient."



Sally Cook has been inspired to photograph this beautiful *Grevillea fililoba*.



Prostanthera hybrid

Graeme Nicholls



Eremophila lucida

Graeme Nicholls

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Contributions for the November 2020 Newsletter should be sent to Sue Guymer at aitchguy@gmail.com no later than **Friday 30th October 2020**

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