



# KUNZEA

Australian Plants Society Maroondah  
*Preservation by Cultivation*



## November 2019

### Friday Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> November at 8.00 pm

#### Chasing Goodeniaceae

Maree Goods

Maree, with her husband Graham, have been interested in Australian plants for over 45 years. Her interests have evolved as her favourite plant genera change. Recently she has been interested in photographing as many different species as possible in the Goodeniaceae family.

This all started four years ago (although she didn't realise that she had been doing it for many years beforehand) when the Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants (district group of APS) decided to be part of the 12th FJC Rogers Seminar on Goodeniaceae. One of her aims was to provide a photographic guide of as many species of Goodeniaceae as possible. This passion has continued since then, and she has now photographed 148 species out of 490 known species growing in their natural habitat. The challenge still lays ahead for her.

(It would be good to see some Goodeniaceae specimens brought in for our November meeting!)

**Friday meetings are held at the  
Australian Unity Hall  
8 Main St, Blackburn**

*near the Blackburn train station*



Maree Goods

### Garden Visit

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November at 4 pm

Sue Guymer and Bill Aitchison

13 Conos Court, Donvale (Melway map 49 A1)

Sue and Bill bought a vacant block of land (vacant of everything except pasture grass weeds), and built their house in 1988. In the 30-odd years since then they have aimed at creating a habitat link to the linear Mullum Mullum Creek reserve which runs along the bottom of the block.

There have been a number of structural changes to the garden over that time. Early on, a lake was created near the bottom of the block. This has been wonderful in extending the bird species which visit the garden. At the moment, a pair of Dusky Moorhens are nesting on the lake.

A swimming pool was put in early on, and enjoyed for many years. However, there came a point when the upkeep became more onerous than the benefits. It has now been converted by Phillip Johnson into a lovely billabong with two waterfalls.

This is our break-up function for 2019, so we will have a later start to the garden visit (4pm) followed by BYO dinner. Feel free to bring whatever you like to eat and drink, with any cutlery/crockery that you need. Also, please bring a chair as we only have a few. Hope to see a bumper crowd to celebrate our year.



The new billabong at Sue and Bill's garden.

# Spectacular plants from WA now becoming available

Phillip Vaughan

We tried something different for our October meeting. We invited outstanding Australian plantsman Phil Vaughan to speak to us about collecting, selecting and developing Australian plants for horticulture. He and his wife Alexis also brought some very special plants from their nursery, Vaughan's Australian Plants at Pomonal, to auction to our members.

Phil spoke to us about his career in collecting special Australian plants, and developing them into suitable plants for our gardens. In particular, he has a passion for many of the spectacular Western Australian species – but how can we keep them alive, let alone growing and flowering well, in Victoria? About this time, people were starting to graft Australian plants, so he realised that this was the way to go, to provide more reliable roots for these plants to grow on in our conditions. Phil is now one of the foremost grafters of our plants.

Many years ago, he started travelling with knowledgeable WA collectors, including George Lullfitz and John Cullen. Other people who have also been on these trips include Neil Marriott, Roger Wileman and Peter Olde. There have been many such trips over the years, which are often into very remote sites. Phil collects seed or cutting material – whatever is suitable for propagating the particular species.

Different years and different places yield a variety of species and hybrids, particularly following fires. For instance, he recently found a variety of *Grevillea spinosa* forms and hybrids after fire along the Canning Stock

Route. He brought along a beautiful *Grevillea eriostachya* x *spinosa* from this collection. Another collecting spot was Ilkurlka.

Dwarfed plants are becoming more sought after as our gardens are becoming smaller. You are probably aware that there are now a number of smaller Flowering Gums (*Corymbia ficifolia*) selections of specific colours, available on the market. Many of these were selected from the wild by Phil. He brought along a new one for the auction – a true dwarf form of a good red called *Corymbia ficifolia* 'Tiny Red'.

Two of the plants were spectacular and uncommon Copper Cups – *Pileanthus aurantiacus* and *Pileanthus peduncularis*. All of the plants were spectacular and interesting in different ways.

## Plant Auction

The auction of Phil's plants was a great success. Twenty plants were sold (see list below), most of them grafted, raising a total of \$845. Bidding was spirited on each of the lots and 15 lucky members took home one or more of these beauties.



*Grevillea* sp Ilkurlka

Photo: Sue Guymer



Deb conducted the auction while Bruce held up the plants.  
Photo: Nicky Zanen

Phil and Alexis very generously donated the auction plants to our group. As previously advised, Maroondah group agreed to match the total raised through the auction. We have decided to round up the amount to be donated towards drought relief to a total of \$2,000.

Following the auction, Phil sold some other plants which he and Alexis brought along, making even more of our members very happy! Thanks very much to Phil and Alexis for their generosity, and for bringing their wonderful plants (and stories) all the way from Pomonal. Also, our deepest gratitude to Phil for bringing so many of these wonderful plants into cultivation for us to enjoy.

It takes a while to grasp that a garden isn't a testing ground for character and to stop asking, what did I do wrong? Maybe nothing.

– Eleanor Perényi, *Green Thoughts*, 1981

## Plants auctioned

*Banksia rosserae* - named for Celia Rosser, outstanding banksia illustrator  
*Banksia grandis* – dwarf form from Windy Harbour  
*Banksia prionotes* (dwarf) – genuine low form from Murchison Station  
*Philotheca verrucosus* ‘Kangaroo Gully Crimson’ (grafted) – outstanding colour form  
*Pileanthus aurantiacus* (grafted)  
*Pileanthus peduncularis* (grafted)  
*Grevillea scapigera* (double graft)  
*Grevillea* sp Ilkurlka (grafted)  
*Grevillea eriostachya* x *spinosa* – from the Canning Stock Route (grafted)  
*Santalum acuminatum* (Sandalwood) – with host *Hemiandra gardneri* (grafted) – rare and endangered in natural environment in WA  
*Hemiandra linearis*, green leaf (grafted)  
*Persoonia levis* – has beautiful red trunk with mini-richie bark  
*Guichenotia macrantha* (prostrate form)  
*Eucalyptus caesia* x *rhodantha*  
*Melaleuca fulgens* (white-flowered form)  
*Geleznovia* sp Marchagee Track (grafted) – forms a small dome  
*Corymbia ficifolia* ‘Tiny Red’ (grafted) – mature height 1.5m  
*Diplolaena grandiflora* – a decumbent form (grafted)  
*Quoya dilatata* – Native Foxglove, previously called *Pityrodia dilatata*



*Pileanthus aurantiacus*

Photo: Sue Guymer



*Hemiandra gardneri*

Photo: Neil Marriott

## Another Perspective

Bruce Schroder

As the organiser of this activity, I would personally like to thank everyone who participated, not just the generous buyers but also those at the meeting who just by their presence and participation made it such a fun night. I really had no idea where this would end up; the possibility of sending plants back to Pomonal with Phil and Alexis having crossed my mind more than once!

As many of the plants auctioned off were grafted, it was interesting to still hear questions from the audience such as “Does it need good drainage?” I found myself thinking, do people really understand why these plants have been grafted? But then I thought back to my days working at both Austriflora and Kuranga nurseries, and the oft repeated mantra for nearly everything we sold – “It must have good drainage”.

Trying to get those really special West Australian plants to grow well here in Victoria (read *survive*) means trying to replicate their growing conditions as closely as possible, and many of us with heavier soils have really struggled. Growing them on a “new” root system that is happier in the heavier soils certainly helps to overcome this, and it is fortunate that some really strong root systems have been tried and tested to address this, such as *Correa glabra* for other members of the Rutaceae

family such as *Geleznovia* and *Diplolaena*, *Westringia fruticosa* as a rootstock for *Hemiandra* species, and *Hypocalymma angustifolium* for such tricky but stunning members of the *Pileanthus* genus. These rootstock species are all relatively reliable here in Melbourne, but still we’d never consider growing them in wet, boggy soils. So, the question is pertinent – good drainage is still important.

But just as important, and something we often forget when thinking about growing Western Australian species, is the need for light, sun and air movement. Putting a stronger root system on these treasured species is not the panacea – it is just the first hurdle that needs to be overcome. Very few, if any, of the plants on the auction table grow naturally in low light situations. It is no coincidence that the most floriferous species from Western Australia grow naturally in open low scrubby situations where light and good air movement are abundant. Have you got somewhere in your garden that can accommodate this? It’s worth thinking about. In my garden, based on this past winter’s gloomy experience, I would struggle. Mind you, this has not stopped me, and I already have a good collection of Phil’s grafted plants!

# October Garden Visit

## Marilyn and Geoff Bull Garden, Montrose

Written by Peter Smith

Marilyn greeted us and gave us a brief run down on the development of her large garden in Montrose. She has been there for over 20 years in a changing but still quite natural surround.

Her love of Oz environment is strong as she shares her idea of “living in a forest”, which would take more time than what we have. She reminds us of the practical realities of weedy broom, rabbits, chooks and invasive local plant *Gahnia radula*. Marilyn, with husband Geoff’s assistance, has overcome the first few problems, with the chooks having their own 3.5 star spacious enclosure, the broom has gone, the rabbits are at bay, but the gahnia remains an ongoing issue.

bossiaea, a lovely *Pultenaea pedunculata*, prostantheras and pomaderis, a large *Banksia spinulosa*, a sprawling *Commersonia fraseri* (which suckers) and a *Toona australis* with its tragic story. Lomatias and leionemas, patersonias and thomasias.



Photo: Bill Aitchison

As Marilyn leads us around, her stories unfold and we are taken in by her experiences and her passion... oh, oh, oh, her power and her passion...

Some trees have grown to maturity: the local *Eucalyptus viminalis*, *E. globulus*, *E. bicostata*, *E. viridis* and a large *Casuarina cunninghamiana*. Boronias, philothecas and peas are ablaze. Her desire to grow indigenous plants as well as others, and to have plants flowering all year ‘round, is amply met: an unusual



*Pultenaea pedunculata*

Photo: Bill Aitchison

The digging of the pond, bringing in some rocks, mounding of new beds, the proliferation of *Gahnia radula*, the loss of a large acacia - the cycles of a garden. *Grevillea treueriana* “must have that” to *Grevillea shiressii* which couldn’t handle the wet. The use of surplus Cranbourne Botanic Gardens stock (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*) along the fenceline to show others the beauty of our flora; the roadside free of weeds, full of life.

Back through the gate, a large *Eucalyptus eximea* by the house. We venture past the “Japanese bit”, a lovely *Grevillea fililoba* softening the sleeper wall, more boronias “each different by its scent”. Startling *Ricinocarpos pinifolius*, an incredible Waratah, ...the frogs ...the rocks ...and back to where we started...for a cup of tea, fresh scones and chit chat by the *Banksia caleyi* and an amazing *Rulingia hermanniifolia*.

Thanks to Marilyn for an excellent afternoon, and scones.



*Commersonia fraseri*

Photo: Bill Aitchison



*Banksia caleyi*

Photo: Bill Aitchison



*Boronia heterophylla* 'Blue Waves'

Photo: Sue Guymer



*Bossiaea scolopendria*

Photo: Bill Aitchison

## ***Eucalyptus polyanthemos***

Joe Wilson

We all know *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* ssp *polyanthemos* as the local Red Box. In California, it is known as the Silver Dollar Tree. I consider it the emblematic tree of the Warrandyte area, with its bluish-grey foliage making a show, especially if the tree is 40 or more years old. This tree is widespread from the Central Tablelands and Central Western Slopes of NSW to eastern and central Victoria.

It is a solid tree, generally of a stout single trunk to 10 metres tall, although it can grow taller. It can make a lovely shade tree. It is a tree that gives no problems to the owners if adequate space from the house is allowed.

But have you noticed what a spectacle it is making this year. It is flowering profusely!

(Editor: Independantly of Joe's note, Bill Aitchison was travelling with APS Wangaratta member Alan Gibb recently, near Wangaratta, and they observed how spectacularly these trees were flowering there.)



### **Pretty Screen**

Michael Cook

It started by putting up a Westerly Weather Shield.

Sally didn't like the poles, so after attaching the "roll-out" shield which can be folded away in the summer, I fitted a solar light on each pole. Then we decided that bamboo lattice would serve well between the 2 poles. Last spring we planted two forms of *Hardenbergia violacea* – a white form and a bushy pink form, both from Chris Fletcher. It gives a cheerful glow in mid-winter.



## Vale Enid Haskins

It has been a very sad few weeks for Maroondah members. Soon after Diana Snape's death, we heard that Enid Haskins passed away. Enid's contribution to Maroondah group was well-recognised last November when she was presented with Honorary Life Membership. Helen Morrow has provided this personal tribute.

Tim and I first met Enid together with Ian when we joined Maroondah group in the 1980s. We were sure to meet up with her at Garden Visits and at the monthly all day walks with the Maroondah Meanders. Enid was a keen participant at our weekend getaways, including at Licola and the summer Alpine camps.

With a shared interest in native plants, it wasn't long before we met up again at the Montrose Environment Group (MEG) Co-op, an 11-acre property, with an old house to stay in, at Wartook, in the foothills of the

Grampians. Working bees were part of the requirement for this old house and Enid was very much part of all the activities. Enid and Ian also enjoyed the house with family and grandchildren.

As with many Australian Plant members, they also joined the Friends of Cranbourne RBGV when members were being sought to show the importance of this indigenous area. She was sure to be at the Friends' Annual Lunch and other social occasions, quietly giving help where needed.

Enid was a quiet and very keen supporter of the environment and Australian plants. It was a pleasure to share her enthusiasm when we met her and Ian at these social and fund raising events.

Maroondah group passes on our condolences to Ian, their family and friends.

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## Stop Mowing and Grow Native

Notes from an ABC radio interview early in 2019

The ACT government spends about \$10 million each year mowing grass in public spaces. Associate Professor Philip Gibbons of the ANU Fenner School of Environment and Society thinks that green spaces can be managed in a more sustainable way, both saving money and also providing more habitat for native wildlife. He said that about 30% of Australia's threatened species overlap with urban areas, and that mown grass is "crap for biodiversity".

Speaking on an ABC radio interview, he recommended replacing selected grassed areas with native grasses, groundcovers, shrubs, dead wood, rocks and trees to improve biodiversity. He made the point that intensively maintaining mown grass is not carbon neutral because the sequestering of CO<sub>2</sub> by the grass is more than offset by the generation of CO<sub>2</sub> by the

mowing machines. He said that in high growth seasons the mown grass becomes contaminated by Chilean needle grass and African love grass, very destructive weeds which can escape into native woodlands.

One interesting technique that they are trialling is to scrape away the topsoil which is nutrient rich, and favours exotic plants, and sowing with native species which can compete better on poor soils.

Although native planting can bring increased fire risk in residential areas, restoration work can be done in ways that reduce fuel load, such as by introducing rocks, which also attract lizards, and large logs which only smoulder rather than contribute to fire intensity.

These ideas are being trialled in one area of the ACT, but Professor Gibbons hopes it can be rolled out more widely. It's a great idea for other municipal authorities too.

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## October Specimen Table

There wasn't time for our normal Specimen Table due to the other activities on the night. However, there was a beautiful selection of spring-flowering specimens brought in from our members' gardens. These were studied, enjoyed and then quickly picked over for cutting material.

## Australian Plants Revealed

This very exciting event will be upon us in a few months' time. It is a celebration of the start of Europeans (particularly Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander – 250 years ago) seeing and collecting Australian flora. There will be a major exhibition and lecture day at Federation Estate in Ringwood, and exhibition at Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden & Nursery.

There will be further information in December's *Growing Australian* journal, including a registration form. Look out for it.

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## Environment Victoria and the Snapes

There was a lovely story in the Spring 2019 edition of *Environment Victoria News* magazine. It related the involvement of Diana and Brian Snape in the early days of the Victorian conservation movement and the beginnings of Environment Victoria.

It told how, in the early days of their marriage, the Snapes spent many weekends in their favourite destination – a semi-arid patch of scrub and trees in Victoria's north-west called the Little Desert. This special place came under threat in the late 1960s with a proposal by the Victorian State Government to subdivide the land for farming. The Snapes joined the resistance campaign, which brought together various conservation groups. The Little Desert was saved by the collective efforts of these conservationists. This campaign also gave birth to Environment Victoria (EV).

The article pointed out that Brian and Diana have supported EV with donations, encouragement and personal enthusiasm over five decades.

## Your New Committee

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Maroondah group was held during our October monthly meeting. The President's Report and Annual Accounts were included in last month's Kunzea.

The Committee is always elected at the AGM. Bruce Schroder has been President for over 3 years, and decided to step down from that position, although he will continue on the Committee. Bill Aitchison thanked Bruce for his great leadership over the last 3 years.

The new Committee for the next 12 months is:

You will notice that we do not have a President or any Vice Presidents. It is possible that one or more of these positions will be filled from the Ordinary Committee members. However, we do need some "new blood" on Committee, and encourage you to consider volunteering. You can still join the Committee at this stage – contact any Committee Member (details at end of this newsletter).

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| President                  | vacant  |
| Vice President(s)          | vacant  |
| Secretary                  | Peter Rogers  |
| Treasurer                  | Joe Wilson  |
| Ordinary Committee Members | Alison Rogers, Barry Ellis, Bill Aitchison, Bruce Schroder, Dallas Boulton, Deb Jerkovic, Graeme Nicholls, Jan Nicholls, Sue Guymer |

## Wonderful Western Australia

Sue and Bill were lucky enough to be able to attend the recent Biennial ANPSA (Australian Plants Society's national body) conference in Albany. There were terrific talks and bus tours. A particular thrill was seeing the Albany Pitcher Plant (*Cephalotus follicularis*) in the wild.

They also visited Kings Park during the Festival.



*Cephalotus follicularis*

Sue Guymer



Garden bed at Kings park

Sue Guymer



*Geleznovia* sp Red Bluff

Bill Aitchison

# Upcoming Events

## Friday Meetings

- 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019**  
Maree Goods – *Chasing Goodeniaceae*
- 17<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
John Thompson – *Early Horticultural Exploration in Australia*
- 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020**  
Lawrie Smith – *TBA*
- 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020**  
Tony Cavanagh – *Dryandras/Banksias*

## Displays

**25<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup> March 2020** – APS Victoria Display at Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS), Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Carlton (Melway map 43 J6).

## Open Gardens Victoria (entry \$10 for adults)

**23<sup>rd</sup>–24<sup>th</sup> November 2019** – Phillip Johnson's *Billabong Falls*, 1 Holden Road, Olinda. (Melway map 124 D2). 10am-4:30pm

## New member

A warm welcome to Coral Page. We look forward to seeing you at our group activities.

## Promoting our Australian Plants

It is always great to hear that our wonderful native plants are being promoted to a wider audience. Nicky Zanen pointed out that Alison Rogers often takes along a display of Australian flora to the Ringwood Field Naturalists Meetings.

Do you know of anyone else doing their bit to spread the word?

## Garden Visits and Activities

- 17<sup>th</sup> November 2019** – Aitchison/Guymer Garden, Donvale
- 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020** – Australian Plants Revealed, Federation Estate, Ringwood
- 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020** – Garden Visit, BYO Lunch and Exhibition, Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Garden & Nursery, Kalorama.
- 19<sup>th</sup> April 2020** – Barfield Garden, Research
- 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020** – Visit to Big Trees of Toolangi, with Sue Bendel

## Other Events

**17<sup>th</sup> February – 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020:**

*"Australian Plants Revealed"* – an exhibition highlighting unique Australian flora collected by Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander in 1770. Exhibition in the Gallery of Maroondah Federation Estate, 32 Greenwood Avenue, Ringwood. See September *Growing Australian* for further details (pages 26 and 27).

**24<sup>th</sup>– 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020:**

13th FJC Rogers Seminar on *"Mint Bushes and Allied Genera"*. This seminar will be hosted by APS Yarra Yarra group, so should be very handy for our members to attend some or all of the events. See September *Growing Australian* for further details (pages 42 and 43).



Photo: Nicky Zanen

### The Maroondah website is closing

As there have been no responses to requests for someone to take over responsibility for administering the website, it will change at the end of the year to a static page with no updates or current information.

## Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.

Postal address: P.O. Box 33, Ringwood 3134  
Email: [maroondah@apsvic.org.au](mailto:maroondah@apsvic.org.au)

### Newsletter contributions:

Contributions for the January 2020 Newsletter should be sent to Sue Guymer at [aitchguy@gmail.com.au](mailto:aitchguy@gmail.com.au) no later than **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

Maroondah Group website:  
[australianplantsoc.wix.com/maroondah](http://australianplantsoc.wix.com/maroondah)

APS Vic website:  
[www.apsvic.org.au](http://www.apsvic.org.au)

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## Committee

|                 |                       |            |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|
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| Joe Wilson      | Treasurer             | 9812 0209  |
| Jan Nicholls    | Membership Secretary  | 9893 4422  |
| Sue Guymer      | Newsletter Editor     | 9872 3583  |
| Graeme Nicholls | Newsletter production | 9893 4422  |
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