



Bendigo Native Plant Group Inc.

P. O. Box 669, Bendigo, Victoria, 3552.

Reg. No. A0014487F

President: Ian Evans 0418 507 213 **Secretary:** Sandra Birch 0400 149 319

Email: bendigonativeplantgroup@yahoo.com.au

BNPG is a district group of Australian Plants Society - Victoria and Bendigo membership requires membership of APS - Vic.

April 2018 Newsletter

Greetings,

Who thought the hot weather was over only to be tricked! I know I can't wait for some decent rain and consistently cooler days. At our last day-meeting I was chuffed when a couple of member 'pinched' some cutting material from my garden - I didn't realise that anything at my place was alive enough to be worth gathering!!

Welcome to our newest members Nancy Miller and Carol Thomas. Both are members of the Heathcote U3A Garden Club and Joan and I met them when we, with APS member David Cheal, were guest speakers at their meeting. Not sure if being guest speakers at non-native garden clubs is a 'first' for our group - possibly not - but it was very worth while as the U3A members were very interested in the topic.

At our next meeting we will meet Kevin Ritchie who is passionate about native conifers both in the wild and in containers. He has a background in Forestry and a life-long interest in land management, tree growing and bonsai! We look forward to his talk this Tuesday.

At the last State Committee of Management meeting there were a few things worth passing on. Firstly, David Pye who will be guiding our tour at Melton showed us their new plant labels. They were granted \$4000 from APSVIC in 2014 and the last of the labels has now been produced. They are very professional and should last years. There was discussion about offering the magazine 'Australian Plants' as an option with annual membership. This magazine is similar size to Growing Australian and would be sent quarterly. There was feedback in regard to 'The Great Plant Out'. Members have reported much excitement about this project and I hope you have all planted your daisy seeds. Mine have germinated and nothing has eaten them yet! And there was dismay at decisions being made to ban the planting of all Eucalypts as street trees in the City of Whittlesea, and, the proposed re-routing of the Western Hwy which will result in loss of endangered vegetation, and cost a lot more than keeping and improving the existing route. Two retired VicRoads engineers have drawn the technical plans to show the cost saving and feasibility of keeping the current route but it is feared it may fall on deaf ears. On a lighter note, the APSVIC web page has had a big makeover and we will be able to have more content about our Bendigo group.

Planning is well underway for our flower show on Sept 22 & 23 with set-up on Sept 21. Have you saved the date????

See you on Tuesday - Sandy

7.30 pm Tuesday 17 April 2018

Native Conifers with Kevin Ritchie

Plant of the Evening - Rod Orr

Supper - Jan Orr and Sandy Birch

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30 pm 8 May 2018, 7 Weatherall St, California Gully

Excursion to Melton Botanic Gardens **Sunday 29 April, 2018**

8.15 am Bendigo - meet at Golden Square Hall. Car pool*

10 am Melton Botanic Gardens, 21 Williams St. Melton
(Friends of Melton BG nursery and club rooms)

Morning tea provided

Guided tour of fantastic gardens before BYO lunch

Return to Bendigo at your leisure

BYO food and drink for lunch.

Wear clothing suitable for all weather conditions and walking. Don't forget hat and sunscreen!

**\$7 per person for those getting a lift.*

March 2018 Presentation

Ian Evans - Eucalypts for Small Gardens

(Photos are by Ian Evans unless otherwise notated)

Small Eucalypts up to 5m in height have different growth habits and this should be kept in mind when selecting.

Mallees have many stems arising from a bulbous lignotuber or mallee root at ground level and are seldom taller than 10 metres. They reshoot after fire or other damage

Mallets can be a small tree and have a single trunk and an open upward branching habit but lack both a lignotuber or epicormic buds. They look like Mallees and only regenerate from seed.

Yates or Marlocks are small trees with a single trunk but with spreading branches and foliage to ground level and lack a lignotuber.

Gimlets are small trees with a single or multi-stemmed trunk and very smooth bark which they shed annually.

Gums can be small trees with rough or smooth bark on the trunk and lower branches.

Pruning - prune young trees to their natural growth habit. If your young tree should only have one trunk yet has sprouted more of similar size, then reduce the foliage on the outer ones which will cause the main trunk to grow stronger.

Meetings are held at the Golden Square Community Hall, Old High St, Golden Square, on the third Tuesday of each month from February to November. The room is open from 7.10 pm, for viewing of display specimens. Program begins at 7.30 pm.

Once this has happened just cut the outer trunks off at the base. However if your young Mallee has only one stem it can result in a tall spindly tree that will struggle, so cut it off down low and it will sprout multiple trunks as in the photo.



After flowering, pruning the fruits will lighten the physical weight on the branches and direct energy into keeping the plant alive. It is also promote new growth. All pruning should result in a clean cut close to the trunk.

We choose particular Eucalypts for their growth habit; the bark colour and texture; the buds and fruits; and the flowers.

Growth habit - *E. albidula* is a mallee so will keep shooting. By continually pruning almost to the ground the juvenile foliage is retained. *E. preissiana* has large cream or yellow flowers and only grows 15 cm high in exposed sites hugging the ground amongst rocks. *E. sepulcralis* has large nuts and weeps right to ground - pruning can promote multiple nice white powdery trunks. *E. extrica* foliage is used by florists. They have square gum nuts and flowers and light green foliage with a purple tinge. *E. macrocarpa* can be seen on the front fence line of Weeroona College where it was planted in the late '60's. It is a huge but not tall plant.

E. macrocarpa
Photo M. Sprague



Bark colour and texture - the bark of *E. caesia* has stringy 'Minni Ritchi' bark - bark that is reddish brown and peels from the trunk in long curls looking a bit like a red-head's hairdo! It also has a lovely silver bloom. *E. behriana* trunks will be green and brown once the old bark has is shed in late summer. *E. crusis subsp crusis* and *E. minniritchi* also boast Minni Ritchi bark.

After *E. erythronema* sheds its deep pink bark the trunk will be white. *E. Stricklandii* is one with attractive mottled bark. *E. salubris* (right) has a sheen reminiscent of satin or silk after dropping its old bark.



Buds and fruit -

E. pyriformis has quite large buds and fruit. *E. macquoidii* is one of the Yates. The interesting buds look like sea-urchins. *E. kingsmillii* from central Australia has pretty yellow-green and pink buds while the caps of *E. synandra* almost look like hot pink golf tees! Their buds start forming in mid-December and they are very fast forming, flowering in January and is one of three eucalypts with 'skirted' flowers that are shaped like ladies skirts rather than ballet tutus! See the pixie-cap bud to the left in this photo of *E. synandra*.



Photo - M. Sprague

E. formanii carries masses of lime-green buds for 12 months which compensates for the small insignificant white flowers. *E. tetraptera* 'Square Fruited Mallee' is grown more for the large leaves and the pillar-box red buds that produce small puce coloured flowers. *E. forrestiana ssp dolichoryncha* 'Fuchsia Gum' is grown for the large glowing red/pink/orange buds rather than the small yellow flowers. (right)



"Melburnian" Wikicommons CC BY 2.5

Now for the **Flowers**. Ian had so many slides of different gorgeous flowers that there is simply no way to list them all in this publication. Creams, greens, pinks of every sort, reds, salmons, lemons, yellows, whites, purple..... purple? the cream with deep pink of *E. calycogona* and some like *E. youngiana* which starts with cream blossom that fades to deep pink. A kaleidoscope of beauty.

Flowers are shaped from typical Snugglepot and Cuddlepie blossom to pompoms (*E. arborella*, *E. lehmannii*, & *E. conferruminata*); powder puffs (*E. orbifolia* & *E. minniritchi*); and the delicate *E. macranda* 'Long Flowered Yate' and *E. tenera* with their fine blossom filaments. A number of species boast a range of flower colours too.



E. eremophila (left) is so called because it is desert loving, therefore pretty hardy. It grows well locally to about 5m and has creamy yellow flowers.

most and Ian wonders why more people are not giving this beauty a try.

E. kruseana (right) has lovely clusters of creamy yellow flowers and florists love the foliage.



E. rameliana is one of the rarest eucalypts. It was lost for over 100 yrs and more recently found west of the MacDonal Ranges. Dean Nicolle - a self-confessed Eucynut - was involved in this expedition when only a teenager. Dean has set up Currency Creek Eucalyptus Arboretum near Goolwa in S.A. Ian assured us it is well worth a visit. They have open days with guided tours.

As many know, Corymbia and Angophora were once known as eucalypts. So why has it changed? Corymbias only have terminal flowers that bud and flower in only a few months. Their seed has a lot more husk in the nut than a euc. Angophoras have terminal flowers too but don't have a cap to the bud. They have opposite foliage meaning the leaves are in pairs either side of the twig.

But what about the purple??? *E. albopurpurea* can be seen in Strickland Rd east of Rohs Road along the O'Keefe Rail Trail. It grows to 2m high and flowers in September.



Photo M. Sprague



E. lansdowneana (above) can be seen growing happily in Bolt St Long Gully and in Paterson St beside the cemetery. Its deep pink flowers make a real show. And *E. megacornuta* (right) has lime green flowers and warts on the caps! Ian's kids would use them as witches fingers!



E. erythrocorys (below) is spectacular - if you can get it to grow! There is one in Lily Street, Bendigo, on the roadside in what looks like impossible soil which must be alkaline as the tree is doing so well. In full flower it is a mass of bright glowing gold flowers with very visible large scarlet buds. The flower formation is also unusual with a large tuft of stamens growing from each of the four corners of the bud. Flowers are up to 7cm across and occur from late summer to early autumn. The tree grows to 4m at



Nurseries Who Support Our Group

A bit of unashamed advertising for our members

The owners of these nurseries are BNPG members and generously support our group so don't forget to support them! More member businesses who support us to come.



230 Tannery Lane, Mandurang
Ph: 5439 5384
www.goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au



Revegetation and Forestry Plants

8 McClelland Dr. Eaglehawk
Ph: 5446 9260
www.neangarnursery.com.au



HABITAT NATIVE
PLANT CO
Plants for your Habitat

86 Maiden Gully Rd,
Maiden Gully Ph:
417544159
www.habitatnativeplantcompany.com.au

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club
7.30 pm second Wednesday of the month
Golden Square Hall, Old High Street, Golden Square

The March Specimen Table



Ian's *Eremophila calorhabdos* has grown to 2m. The rod-like branches are not too long so cope with the weight of clumsy honeyeaters. It flowers much better on new growth so benefits from a good prune. With hot pinkish red flowers it is also known as a 'Red Rod Emu Bush'.



Eremophila reticulata is another of Ian's and the only one that Marilyn says lasts as a cut flower. The deep pink bracts stay on it for a long time and frame the powder pink flowers. Ian's shrub is 1.5m high and really lights up the garden just on dusk. The frost gets it a bit even though it is from inland W.A. It is grafted onto *Myoporum insulare*.



Lechenaultia superba flowers from January to late March. Flowers come in yellow and orange as well as these red ones. Ian grows them in pots and the garden. Those in the garden are not thriving but that may be because they are about 3 yrs old. They strike really easily from cuttings.

Grevillea 'Peaches & Cream' was Bev C's and has flowered since November. The plant is 2 x 2m and the only one that survived from those she bought at hardware stores! Red Kelly', 'Molly' & 'Peaches & Cream' are all crosses

Grevillea bipinnatifida. It doesn't like cold weather so flowers better at this time of year than in the Spring.

Last month *Grevillea bipinnatifida* orange form was featured



and this month the red! Ian grows four forms so we look forward to next month's offering! Known as the 'Grape Grevillea' due to the flower shape, it is also known as the 'Fuchsia Grevillea'.

More Plant Name info from Lisa - Part 4

Last year we started looking at Nomenclature with help from Lisa. In this newsletter we'll look at some of the names that pop up in the botanical world starting with Myrtaceae and Banksia

MYRTACEAE - Myrtus (G) perfumed flowers and foliage.

Agonis (G) *agonis* - without angles Refers to graceful, drooping branches. *Sp flexuosa* (L) zig zag - intermodal patterns.

Angophora (G) *angos* - a vessel *phora* - bearing. The tree bears fruits shaped like a cup.

Apetolous - without petals or inconspicuous miniscule petals.

Callistemon (G) *Kallistos* - most beautiful *stemon* - stamen.

Corymbia - flowers in corymb *Korymbos* (G) a flower cluster

Eucalyptus (G) *Eu* - well *calyptos* - covered The buds are well covered by a bud cap (operculum)

Leptospermum (G) *leptos* - slender *sperma* - seed

Lophostemon (G) *lophos* - crested *stemon* - stamen

Melaleuca (G) *melanos* - black *leucos* - white In 1797 the first species described was *M. quinquenervia* which had white branches and a burnt trunk!

Syncarpia (G) *syn* - together *carpia* - fruit

PROTEACEAE *proteus* (L) a self changing sea-god *protean* (L) changeable in form

Banksia - Sir Joseph Banks botanist on HMS Endeavour

Grevillia - Charles R. Greville Royal Horticultural Society

Hakea - Baron Christian Ludwig von Hake, 18thC German patron of Botany

Lambertia - named by James Smith in honour of Ayler Bourke Lambert - patron of Botany

Stenocarpus (G) *stenos* - narrow *carpus* - fruit

Telopea - seen from afar

So if someone admires your myrtus and describes you as *angonis* and hopes you are *angos* and *phora* not to mention *kallistos* you might feel a bit *melanos* or *leucos* depending on your mood. Perhaps best you are *telopea*!!!

BNPG DIARY

Sunday 29 April - Excursion to Melton Botanic Gardens (note the car-pool fee in the notice on page 1)

Tuesday 15 May - Dryandras with Tony Cavanagh

Tuesday 19 June - Grevilleas with Graeme Woods

Fri 21 (set up) Sat 22 & Sun 23 Sept - Our Flower Show

Other Diary Dates

21 April APS Geelong Plant Sale at 'Wirrawilla', 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks. (Mel 431 D6). 8.30 am to 5.00 pm

28 April APS Yarra Yarra Plant & Book Sale. Eltham Senior Citizens Centre, 903 Main Road, Eltham from 10 am to 4 pm.

21 & 21 October - 12th FJC Rogers Seminar at Horsham. To express interest email fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com