



KUNZEA

Australian Plants Society Maroondah
Preservation by Cultivation



June 2019

Friday Meeting

21st June at 8.00 pm

Mangroves

- tropical plants with a difference

Robert King



Emeritus Professor Robert King undertook his initial studies in Zoology and Botany at Melbourne University, and spent almost 40 years at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, before retiring as Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Registrar. His research in marine botany has included studies on the marine algae associated

with mangroves: taxonomy and systematics, distribution, and ecology with an emphasis on mechanisms of salinity tolerance.

The term mangrove refers to both an unusual group of essentially tropical plants and the communities they form. There is only one mangrove species in Victorian, but in northern Australia there is a rich and varied collection of genera and species all coping with an environment that appears unfriendly to flowering plants. Mangroves exhibit a range of adaptations enabling them to cope in an environment with regular inundation, variable salinity, unstable sediments and wave action. The term has no taxonomic significance but is an ecological category of plants defined by a challenging environment. Mangroves occur in a surprising range of familiar plant families, and are related to many genera which are well known in our tropical flora and also as garden plants.

Although we are not likely to grow mangroves in our own gardens, come along and hear all about this fascinating group of plants.

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

near the Blackburn train station

Newsletter Contributions are Welcome

How about telling us about your favourite plant, or something that has recently happened in your garden, or some more unusual plant that you came across.

Contact the *Kunzea* Contents Editor Sue Guymer on 9872 3583 or aitchguy@gmail.com.

Garden Visit

Sunday 23rd June at 2 pm

Wombolano Park, Ringwood East

Meet at the Rotherwood Avenue car park
(Melway map 50 C10)

Wombolano Park in Ringwood East is located on Canterbury Road and occupies 7.5 ha (18 acres). The Aboriginal name *Wombolano* means love, pretty, lovely beautiful.

We will gather in the car park and proceed to the playground before we go on the walks. The playground has a lawn area and adjacent public toilets. There is a Friends Group of the park and one of their members is going to meet and greet us.

The Sensory Trail starts at the Rotherwood Avenue car park and leads through a wetland area. Seasonally-wet ponds can be viewed from several platforms along the trail.

You may need a warm coat and thermos! Contact details: Dallas Boulton 9729 1538.

Maroondah Display at APS YY Plant Expo

Yarra Yarra group puts on a superb Plant Expo in September each year. The theme this year will be "Small Plants".

Maroondah group usually puts on a small display as part of the Expo. We are asking for people to be involved in determining what the display should be and how to put it together. We will later ask for helpers to set up (Friday 13th September) and pull down the display (Sunday 15th September).

Please contact Dallas Boulton with offers of help or suggestions, on bernard.boulton@bigpond.com or 9729 1538.

Subscriptions are due

All subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st July. A renewal form is included with this edition of *Kunzea*. Please read it carefully and fill it all in. Make sure that your current email address is included so that membership records are kept up to date.

Payments can be made by cash or cheque at the June meeting, or by EFT any time. EFT details are on the membership renewal form. If you are not sure how much you should pay, please phone Jan on 9893 4422.

Hakeas

Royce Raleigh

Notes from the talk at the May meeting
written by Diane Hedin

Royce began growing hakeas at the suggestion of Fred Rogers in the late 1960s when he was also invited to attend SGAP Maroondah (now APS Maroondah). Royce really took to the idea, growing 90 species in his garden in Montrose, sourcing plants from nurseries including Austraflo which were mostly grown from seeds. He also became leader of the Hakea Study Group, and created a collection of seeds from all over Australia, sourcing from Botanic Gardens, Burrendong Arboretum, members and from his own plants. When Royce and Jeanne moved to Wartook, they loaded removalist vans with many hundreds of potted hakeas.



Hakea aculeata

Hakeas in general are hardy and prove to be reliable in cultivation. They retain their seed which can be collected and germinated. Many have lignotubers, and can be heavily pruned, and many can withstand frost and long dry periods. Royce mentioned his *H. lissocarpa* for example which thrives without water. Hakeas are wonderful bird attracters both for food and shelter.



Hakea bakeriana

Hakea is a genus of about 150 species (and about 20 sub-species) of plants in the family Proteaceae. They are endemic to Australia, found in every state, with the highest species diversity being found in the south west of WA. They are worth growing for their great range of form, from trees to prostrate, their unusual foliage and seed shapes, and their often spectacular flowers, some of which are perfumed.



Hakea platysperma

There are many low growing hakeas suitable for the small garden, some which may be worth trying in large containers. Royce recommends regular pruning to maintain a good shape and to encourage better flowering.



Hakea conchifolia



Hakea circumulata



Hakea oleifolia



Hakea orthorrhyncha ssp filiformis



Hakea multilineata

Last year Royce and Jeanne's hakea collection consisted of more than 100 species. Unfortunately some were lost over this very dry summer.

Royce presented an incredible photo collection of 95 different hakeas, 90% of which were taken at Wartook Gardens.

Thanks to Royce for a very informative presentation, inspiring us to plant more hakeas.



Hakea victoria



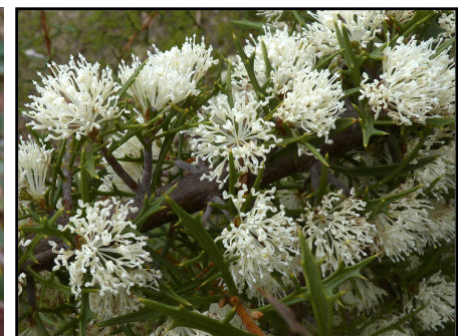
Hakea tephrosperma



Hakea archeoides



Hakea pandanicarpa ssp crassifolia



Hakea ilicifolia

Maroondah Committee

Your Maroondah Committee is elected at our Annual General Meeting which will be held in October.

This year there will be vacancies arising at that time, and we ask you all to consider whether you would be willing to contribute towards the ongoing vitality of our group by joining the Committee.

Committee meetings are held once each month, and provide a great social occasion as well as attending to the business of the Group.

Please contact Bill Aitchison on 9872 3583 or aitchguy@gmail.com, or any other Committee Member, for more details

Tips from Joe Wilson

Depending on the compaction of your soils, Joe has found that it is best to leave soil as undisturbed as possible. This means resisting the temptation to rip soil, work it over or add much to it. If you do want to add compost or mulch, he suggests doing so sparingly. In his garden, he has found that this approach has encouraged the emergence of seedlings, including Flannel Flowers (memories of Peg McAllister).

Another tip is that many wattles can often be propagated from cuttings. This method is easier and quicker than growing from seed, and ensures that the form of the propagated plant is the same as the parent.



Hakea candolleana

Knock knock
Who's there?
Bill
Bill who?
Billardiera

– Frank O'Dea

Member Profile - Chris and Steve Fletcher

Chris Fletcher is well-known to us as the grower who sells her plants at our monthly meetings. But what do we know of Chris outside Maroondah group?

Chris grew up in Prahran in a house with very little garden. She does remember liking gardening as a child, as her Mum loved gardening and Chris would take pieces off pelargoniums to take home to her. She worked for Crawford Productions typing up scripts for many well-known programmes, including Division 4, Ryan, Matlock and Homicide.

She first got married in 1973 and moved into a miner's cottage in Yarra Glen, and had her first two children - Rebecca and Jesse. The cottage is about 120 years old, and Chris says it needs work! There never seems to be enough money and time available together, to do the work.

She got hooked going to Australfora Nursery. In the mid 1970s she joined the Society for Growing Australian Plants (now APS), sent off for seed packets and started what was to become her career in propagating. Her first District Group was SGAP Lilydale which was close to home. That group later folded, and then she joined SGAP Maroondah.

During the mid to late 1980s Chris and Steve both became involved in the Yarra Valley Tree Group, both as volunteers and as Office Bearers. The Tree Group was part of the early Landcare movement, and involved many from the farming and local community concerned with land degradation issues, with a focus on indigenous vegetation on farms. Chris and Steve were involved in organizing many Tree Group activities, including revegetation, plant propagation, local seed collection, site visits, local plant identification days and even a canoe trip down the Yarra River.

There were many revegetation projects undertaken during the late 1980s and most of the 1990s in the Yarra Valley. Tarrawarra Abbey, Domaine Chandon, Chateau Yering (back when it was a working farm and not a five-star hotel and the Yering Station vineyard) and Yarra Grange were just some of the properties involved. Another project involved seed collection and propagation of *Eucalyptus crenulata* (the Buxton Gum or Victorian Silver Gum) from a small remnant stand on a private property at Yering. The remaining trees were in a bad way and in decline as cattle had been grazing around them for many, many decades. The area was fenced off to exclude the cattle, and revegetated with stock propagated by Chris from the remaining adult trees.

Also during this time Chris was propagating native and indigenous plants and selling them at local markets and at the Melbourne Wildflower Show. Chris's propagation methods were simple in that she had no heat mats and didn't use any hormone rooting powder. Then she was offered work at a nearby native nursery. This was Wyeena, run by Kahn and Julie Franke, who were Maroondah members. Chris was hired and worked there for 5 years.



Chris married Steve in 1991. He had always loved native plants, and had a native garden in Bendigo where he lived. He worked at Telstra, and took a redundancy package at 40, just in time to look after their daughter Steph and dedicate time to the Tree Group, and was a committee member on the Melbourne Wildflower Show for about 3-4 years in the early 1990s.

In the mid 1990s, Roger Lord from Melbourne Water asked Chris to supply indigenous plants for streamside plantings in the local area. This led to contracts with the local shire, and Greening Australia. The business was booming. Chris had to hire staff. Their 1/3rd acre property was becoming too cramped. Fortunately, their next-door neighbour offered to let them use part of her block which had a disused hot-house. Chris and Steve repaired the hot-house, put in benches and were soon producing about 150,000 plants a year, mainly as tube stock.

In the meantime, Steve started his second career. Following on from his Landcare endeavours he enrolled in a Bush Management Course run by Save The Bush, and facilitated by ecologist Lincoln Kern. This eventually led to work on a Save The Bush crew involved with environmental works around Melbourne.

Save The Bush somehow came under the National Trust, with Head Office in East Melbourne and space for works equipment borrowed from the Yarra Bend Park Depot. Eventually Steve started his own company which contracted its services of environmental weed control and revegetation to local government, Melbourne Water, VicRoads etc. Often he was planting the plants which Chris grew. Projects were many, including revegetation of the damage done up the Melba Highway by the installation of the Goulburn River pipeline and along the Mullum Mullum Creek for Melbourne Water during the Eastlink construction at Ringwood.

Chris will never forget her 60th birthday. Her family had organised a celebration and stay in a hotel in Melbourne. However, this turned out to be the same day as Black Saturday when the bushfires tore through the Yarra Glen area! Steve drove her in to Melbourne but went home to protect the property, and several guests also couldn't go to the party as they were defending their properties. Chris now realises that it took Steve a long time to recover after the bushfires. In particular, it was very depressing seeing the burnt-out areas all around Yarra Glen and beyond, where his company had carried out many revegetation projects that had been heavily impacted by fire.

She is now semi-retired, only producing as much as she can manage on her own. She grows a wider variety of Australian plants for her own interest now, as well as still some indigenous species. She loves to go to the APS plant sales where she and Steve sell plants, as it is great to catch up with people with a common passion, as well as the people who are just discovering native plants. ➡

Specimen Table

Written up by Bill Aitchison

Thanks to our presenters Peter Rogers and, special guest, Royce Raleigh.

Eucalyptus leucoxylon – this is one that always looks good in flower. Other eucalypts on the Table were *E. lunata* (previously called *E. 'Moon Lagoon'*, it grows 3-5m high), *E. macrantha* (beautiful buds and fruit), *E. gillii* (3-5m x 3-5m) and *E. gregsoniana*.

Homoranthus darwinioides – this is a small shrub from NSW, quite hardy except Marilyn Bull noted that rabbits are liking it at the moment.



Homoranthus darwinioides

Hakea scoparia – this is similar to *H. invaginata*, but comes out earlier and does not always have the pink that *H. invaginata* has. Also on the Table were *H. laurina* and *H. 'Burrendong Beauty'* (we were told years ago that this was a low growing plant but there are some very big ones). Royce recalled collecting seed from *H. 'Burrendong Beauty'* many years ago and noting that the seed produced plants of all shapes and sizes.



Hakea scoparia

Member Profile – continued

She has intentions to put more time into her own garden, but it doesn't seem to happen. She is also a great animal lover and has a dog named Mia.

Chris says that she is not quite sure how all this came about – that a backyard hobby became a significant business; it just sort of happened! This is a typically self-effacing comment from her.

Chris has met so many like-minded people through APS. Some have provided work opportunities, or plant material, but mainly they have been great friends. She greatly appreciates the role that APS has played in her life, just as we also appreciate her contribution.

Banksia bauri – a 3 metre banksia with large woolly flowers (3m long, 1.2m across). Named after botanical artist brothers Ferdinand and Franz Bauer. We also had on the Table a number of different forms of *B. spinulosa* (the variety is amazing).

Bossiaea walkeri – Ray Turner brought this along. Peter recalled seeing it in the Fraser Range area of WA a few years ago,



Bossiaea walkeri

Acacia jibberdingensis – Royce said that this flowers nearly 12 months of the year at Wartook. Other acacias on the Table were *A. beckleri* (a paler colour than some), *A. fauntleroyi*, *A. suaveolens* and a fine leaf form of *A. iteaphylla*.

Templetonia retusa – if you have gone across the Nullarbor near Ceduna when these are in flower, they are quite magnificent. Royce likes the upright form, but there is also a low growing form which forms a lovely plant. They grow especially well in alkaline soil.

A couple of others on the Table were *Dryandra quercifolia* and *Darwinia hypericifolia*.



May "Harvest"

**** STOP PRESS – SITUATION VACANT****

Unfortunately nobody has yet offered to take on the task of writing up the Specimen Table from our Friday night meetings for inclusion in this newsletter. This may raise a question as to whether we can continue to have a specimen table write-up in *Kunzea*.

May Garden Visits

In May we visited two gardens in Box Hill belonging to Frank O'Dea and Diane Hedin.

Sue Guymer

We had a good attendance on a lovely autumn afternoon. We met at Frank's garden first, where Frank told us some of its history (and some Knock Knock jokes which we share with you later). Joe Wilson, who currently helps maintain the garden, walked us around. Michael Cook, who did the maintenance before Joe, also answered some questions.

Frank lives in one of a group of 8 units. Shortly after he moved in in 1996, he met Paul Kennedy who was then a Maroondah group member, and was inspired to convert the garden to natives. He gradually took over the planting and maintenance of the beds in front of



Frank's *Xanthorrhoea* 'Supergrass' in flower. Photo: Bill Aitchison

each unit, and the larger garden bed across the front of the property.

Gardens evolve over time, and Frank likes to have plants which flower well, so there is continual renewal in the garden. Since our last visit in 2011, a dense brush fence has replaced the previous post-and-rail fence, reducing the amount of sun to the west-facing front garden.

Plants in this area include *Correa pulchella* forms and *C. alba* 'Western Pink Star', *Crocea exalata*, bright yellow flowers on *Hypocalymma xanthopetalum*, *H. linifolium*, *Eremophila* sp 'Kalgoolie', various



Frank with *Grevillea georgeana*.

Photo: Bill Aitchison

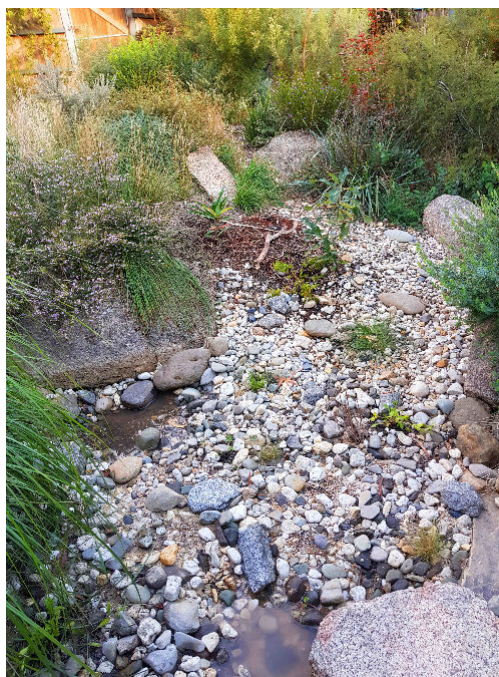
E. maculata and *E. glabra* forms forms, *Acacia pendula*, *A. craspedocarpa*, *A. chinchillensis* and *A. glaucoptera* (broad leaf form), *Billardiera bicolor* (compact form growing as a low shrub), *Templetonia retusa*, *Eucalyptus preissiana* smothered with seedpods from previous flowering, *Hakea* 'Burrendong Beauty', *Spyridium halmaturinum*, *Maireana oppositifolia* and a contorted *Alyogyne huegelii* (one of Frank's early plantings).

Plants in the beds up the driveway include *Eremophila calorhabdos*, *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* 'Baby Blue', *Eremophila oldfieldii*, a few darwinias including *Darwinia collina* and *D. 'Coolamon Pink'*, *Correa reflexa* with very large, richly coloured bells (perhaps 'Portland Giant'), a grafted *Grevillea georgeana* covered in large crimson and white flowers, *Hardenbergia violacea* covering a brick wall, *Pimelea nivea*, *Hakea corymbosa* (with very prickly new growth), *Xanthorrhoea* 'SuperGrass', *Pandorea jasminoides* (on north-facing wall), and a suckering form of *Banksia marginata* with clear lemon flowers.

Then we moved on to Diane's garden. This is much younger than Frank's – about 4 years old. Merele Webb did the design for the garden, including deciding where the rocks should go. Peter Smith placed the rocks (after he removed a panel of fencing to get access!). Diane did most of the planting. She has planted out the nature strip, including indigenous species *Pelargonium australe* and *Themeda triandra*. There is quite a high fence around the property which is on a street corner.

Diane's original intention was to make a garden using indigenous plants only, but after seeing other native gardens and Australian plants from other areas, she decided to include plants from all over Australia. She takes the approach of fitting in as many plants as possible.

The gate on the corner gives entry to a lovely private garden. There had been a pond in this garden until recently, when it was damaged by Diane's 'grand dog'. It has been transformed into an ephemeral watercourse through granite rocks. There is a bench seat in the back



Diane's dry creek bed.

Photo: Michael Cook



Diane's *Banksia* 'Cherry Candles'. Photo: Bill Aitchison

corner by the pond which would be a lovely spot to contemplate the garden. Plants in this garden include *Grevillea petrophiloides* with a number of flowers just coming out, *Eremophila maculata* with flame orange-red flowers, *Scaevola albida* covered in mauve flowers, *Gahnia radula*, *Acacia merinthophora* and *A. spectabilis*, *Microlaena stipoides* growing between the paving stones, *Grevillea lanigera* and *G. 'Amethyst'*, *Eucalyptus saxatilis* (Suggan Buggan Mallee), *Banksia* 'Cherry Candles', *Chamelaucium ciliatum* and lots of dianellas. *Brachyscome multifida* and *Crocea exalata* looked lovely growing together making a picture of mauve and rich pink flowers. Croweas are seeding in the gravel mulch.

Our thanks to Frank, Joe, Michael, Diane, Merele and Peter for taking us through these two lovely gardens.



Merele, Diane and Peter. Photo: Bill Aitchison



Diane's garden seat. Photo: Michael Cook

Gardens are always evolving

Pam Yarra

Change in the garden can be planned, evolving or, in my recent situation, sudden and unexpected. Last August a large *Eucalyptus goniocalyx* crashed to the ground. Fortunately, it only clipped the side of the house doing minor damage to guttering. The fall of the tree not only caused a loss of canopy, but eliminated much canopy in its path, as well as damage to smaller plants. Three arborists took a day to reduce the tree to many logs and a large pile of mulch. One of the arborists was studying furniture design at RMIT and offered to make me a rustic seat, from which I can now watch the sun set and have yet another perspective of the garden.

In the front part of garden, where the top of the tree had landed, I staked damaged plants and took some cuttings, mainly from croweas. Before any new planting, I added compost to the soil and sawdust. I now had more sun, which gave me the opportunity to plant more sun-tolerant plants as opposed to the usual shade loving-plants.

In the front and side gardens, dendrobium orchids, previously sheltered by a large *Coprosma quadrifida* had to be relocated, leaving the area open for new design and planting. It is still amazing to watch the progress of rehabilitation and regeneration, especially the new growth on the *Allocasuarina torulosa* and *A. littoralis*, *Banksia spinulosa* and *B. integrifolia*. The coprosma has some new growth, but looks more dead than alive. However, a newly planted *Hibbertia scandens* is trailing its way up the branches, and it will be interesting to see the degree to which the coprosma will regenerate. A *Hakea*

decurrens was almost destroyed by the falling tree and I pruned it to a remaining piece of trunk, and have just planted two more to ensure food for the visiting Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoos.

Pterostylis nutans were growing at the base of the fallen tree and, amazingly, last month they appeared in front of my rustic seat. I did not expect to ever see them again.

On reflection, I have learned much as a result of the fallen tree. Firstly, not rushing to remove damaged plants, then having time to observe new conditions, especially just before summer (very important). And finally accepting the change, which provides new opportunities for 'plotting and planning', using plants propagated, and of course buying new ones.

[Maroondah group will be visiting Pam's garden on 25th August.]



Pam's new rustic seat with the Greenhoods in front.

Upcoming Events

Friday Meetings

- 21st June**
Robert King – *Mangroves*
- 19th July**
Peter Rogers – *Visiting Cape York*
- 16th August**
A B Bishop – *Habitat gardens*
- 20th September**
Sean Spence – *Droseras*
- 18th October**
Auction Night and AGM
- 15th November**
Maree and Graham Goods –
Chasing Goodeniaceae

Plant sales

- 22nd–23rd June** – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show, Robert Clarke Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gillies St, Ballarat. 10:30am–3:30pm
- 27th–28th July** – Friends of Cranbourne RBGV, Cranbourne Botanic Gardens 10 am–4 pm (Melway 133 K10)
- 14th–15th September** – APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am–4pm

On the Road to Recovery

Brian Snape has been undergoing radiotherapy treatment for skin cancers (SCCs) on the side of his face. He has now completed this and is recovering well.

Vale Joan Barrett

It was sad to hear of the death of past Maroondah member Joan Barrett. She had not been able to come to our meetings in recent years as her health declined. Many of us will remember her cheery face and cheeky sense of humour.

Our condolences to her friends and family.

Garden visits and activities

- 23rd June** – Wombolano Park, Ringwood East
- 21st July** – Jo and Richard Cameron garden, Ringwood East
- 25th August** – Pam Yarra garden, Heathmont
- 22nd September** – Wominjeka Reconciliation Garden, Glen Iris
- 20th October** – Marilyn and Geoff Bull Garden, Montrose
- 17th November** – Aitchison/Guymer Garden, Donvale

ANPSA Events

- 30th September – 4th October 2019:**
ANPSA National Conference, Albany WA.

Manningham Council Environment Seminars

- First Wednesday of the month – 7:20 pm at River View Room, Grand Hotel, Warrandyte (Melway M23 E12).
- 3rd July** – Geoff Williams on ‘*Understanding Rakali – Australia’s “Otter”*’.

FNCV Botany group talks

- Third Thursday of the month – starts at 8 pm at FNCV Hall, 1 Gardenia Street, Blackburn (Melway 47 K10)
- 18th July** – John Eichler on ‘*Rare Plants in Victoria*’.

Slide Screen

Does anybody have a pull-up slide screen that they no longer need and if so could you please donate it to Dallas Boulton? Contact on bernard.boulton@bigpond.com or 9729 1538.

Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.

Postal address: P.O. Box 33, Ringwood 3134
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Newsletter contributions:

Contributions for the July 2019 Newsletter should be sent to Sue Guymer (aitchguy@gmail.com) no later than **Monday 1st July 2019**

Check out the Maroondah Group website at australianplantsoc.wix.com/maroondah

Member page login: mrndh2016

How about making a contribution to the website?



And have a look at the APS Vic website at www.apsvic.org.au

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