



BANGO NATURE RESERVE WALK

This took place on a fine warm day. We travelled via Gunning and the village of Dalton to the destination. Many thanks again to John Weatherstone for being our guide. Nearing the reserve, it emerged that my vehicle had developed a very serious tyre problem. I was happy to contact Road Assistance and wait for them to fix the problem and catch up with the group later. However, members in the back half of the convoy disagreed and tackled the problem. With their efforts and the valuable assistance of a young local who was passing by, the problem was rectified and we got to the reserve. Again, my many thanks to everybody for their help.

There were flowering plants everywhere as we entered the reserve and it wasn't long before we encountered the rare Yass Daisy, *Ammobium craspedioides*. The reserve has timber cover throughout with common species of eucalypt such as Blakely's red gum (*E. blakelyi*) and yellow box (*E. melliodora*) common in the lower and mid sections. On higher reaches, scribbly gum (*E. rossii*) and brittle gum (*E. mannifera*) were seen.

There are, however, few woody shrubs as an understorey. This may be related to its former use as a grazing area for sheep. The orchids, however, were to be seen in all parts of the reserve; their abundance was reduced as we got to higher ground but again the colonies got bigger as we dropped towards a gully. In the flora list, the orchid species have an asterisk.

One slightly disappointing feature was the weed infestations in the reserve - no doubt connected with its past uses. If these could be eliminated, the reserve would truly be a showpiece. Nevertheless, it is certainly a good place to view orchids in flower.

COMMITTEE MEETING

As mentioned in the last newsletter, it was felt necessary to call a meeting to deal with a few issues that had come up. It was thought better to deal with these matters instead of waiting to the AGM in December.

Renate had resigned from the membership officer position and I had indicated that I would relinquish the role of newsletter editor at the end of this year. I had been the editor since the group was formed and I considered that the newsletter needed more input on gardening with native plants which I regarded as the prime interest

of the majority of members. The meeting was held at Peter's home and the committee met with one apology.

Jen Ashwell offered to take over the role of membership officer. Ashlea was nominated for the role of newsletter editor and accepted the nomination. As Renate had been involved with Facebook for the group, it was decided that Peter and Ashlea could step into this role and funds were approved for sessions for them to meet with Tanya Freer, a consultant with whom we had some tuition with last year.

The purchase of a packet of 5 yellow plastic label holders for the wetlands was approved.

To commence the orientation of the newsletter to gardening with natives, the suggestion was made that each committee member would contribute an article dealing with their garden to the newsletter with one contribution each month. This could set the scene for other group members to do the same. Such articles might deal with topics that might range from the garden's history to tips on how to grow particular species. Peter has volunteered for this month and his contribution is further on in this newsletter.

Due to the cancellation of the Riversdale Rare Plant sale, a decision was made to have a stall at the Rotary Markets on Saturday November 14. A spot on the Courthouse side is preferred and Kaye will organise an ad for the local paper. Committee members are asked to look at our website and suggest updating where it is warranted. Greater use of our Facebook page is also encouraged.

Pauline made a request for yellow plant labels for use at the Wetlands; a packet of 50 of the yellow kind will be purchased.

WETLANDS NEWS (Pauline Husen)

The Spring Working Bee at the Goulburn Wetlands was a huge success.

With eight volunteers busily digging holes, planting, watering in and putting up protective guards, we were able to get in all the new plants destined for the Woodland and Hillside gardens—77 plants in total.

In the Woodland Garden, the focus was on planting out the understorey. For this we used many of Tim's pea plants such as *Mirbelia oxylobioides*, *Aotus ericoides* and *Daviesia leptophylla*. Hopefully next spring we'll be enjoying a beautiful golden display. Other species for more open spaces included *Dampiera diversifolia*, *Goodenia ovata* and *Scaevola humilis*.

Anyone who has wandered through the Woodland Garden will have noticed how well *Eremophila glabra* has been doing under the *Eucalyptus pulverulenta*, this encouraged further use of *Eremophila*, including *Eremophila debilis*, and *Eremophila biserrata*.

The good soil in this garden, which made digging holes quite easy, combined with the enthusiasm of the team, meant that these were all in the ground before morning tea.

After the well-deserved break, a smaller team tackled the more challenging Hillside Garden. The soil here is very rocky, making digging holes heavy going. However we still managed to get in all the plants for this garden, including *Leptospermum morrisonii*, *Olearia asterotricha* and *Grevillea "fanfare"*. Anything planted here needs to cope with the steep, west-facing slope, as well as the very poor soil, so it is a great example of what to try for anyone who may have some challenging conditions at home.

Steady follow-up rain two weeks after planting couldn't have given our new additions a better start.

A big thank you is in order for all the wonderful helpers. A special shout out to new member, Judith Collins, who came along for her first visit to the Wetlands, and was an enthusiastic and capable addition to the team. Other helpers who have been involved in previous Working Bees and in establishing the gardens included Raina and Rob Emerson, Celia and Bob Galland, Stephanie Murphy and Tim Hayes. It is five years now since the first plantings went in during Spring of 2015. The gardens already provide locals with much enjoyment, this will only increase as they mature.

While we were busy planting, Bill and Greg were busy laying the concrete platform for another bench overlooking the main pond. The addition of bench seats over the past year or so has encouraged visitors to slow down and soak in the beauty of the Wetlands. Why not take a thermos the next time you head down there? It's a wonderful way to relax, and you never know what you'll see.

AND THE WINNER IS



Our own Kaye Norman has taken out the *Judges Choice Special Award* at this years *Lilac City Festival Garden Competition*. This competition is now taking on the recognition of "Native Gardens".

Well done Kaye and congratulations in being the first winner of this new category!



One section of Kaye's garden showing a lot of diverse plantings



Another section of Kaye's garden - paper daisies on display in the foreground

PROPAGATION NOTES (Peter)

Further to the recent list provided to members, I've selected a few that have recently joined the shade house.

Melaleuca wilsonii (Wilson's honey-myrtle or violet honey-myrtle)

It appears in South-east of South Australia and north-west Victoria in dry, sandy soils. However it is doing well on its roots in the clay-loam shale. (limited tube numbers)

Pelargonium rodneyanum

This herbaceous species grows on exposed rocky slopes in sclerophyll forests, from the Shoalhaven River to the Bungonia Lookout South Coast, Southern and Central Tablelands. It is also found in Victoria and SA.

This is a showy perennial when in flower and winter has the odd red leaf on show. There is a few pots with 40mm roots cuttings buried that are producing young plants.

Mentha diemenica (Slender mint)

An herbaceous member of the mint family that has a distribution locally and all states/territories except WA.

Bulbine bulbosa (Bulbine lily or Golden lily)

Other unflattering common names are wild onion and yellow onion weed. It is neither in the class of lilies or onions but the genus, *Bulbine*. The height is said to be approx. 75cm tall.

Goodenia pinnatifida

This local perennial herb is also found in all states/territories with the exception of NT.

Einadia nutans (Climbing or nodding saltbush)

This herbaceous plant appears to have now been classified under the genus *Chenopodium* on some sites. I have found this to be a

great substitute to weeds, be nice, it's a mat that saves me from pulling those I do not want. It has its place with tiny red/yellow berries for the birds and ground wildlife. It can be found in all states/territories.

Kunzea parvifolia

This local purple flowered shrub may reach a height to 1.5 metres. It can also be found in Victoria. (limited tube numbers)

Callitris canescens (?)

Callitris is a genus of conifer in the family Cupressaceae. There is quite a number of these in tubes however, I sense it may need further research as to its true species name, *canescens*. I had a look at it and came up with it but couldn't see it being grown at Jen's if indeed she planted it or a previous land holder.

GARDEN DESCRIPTION (Peter)

Come this December we moved in 4 years ago to a blank canvas. The property had two dead trees that have since been removed due to rot at the bases. We also have a 3 metre high Eucalypt with a small copse of what appears to be the same species. These were continually slashed over the years prior. Now preserved however might need thinning as they appear to be suckers from the slashing. The house site was levelled giving way to a shale rock ledge running along the northern fence line with excess soil pushed to the southern side. The excavator scraped the entire site prior to the above and heaped all the top soil into many heaps that were returned after the works. This gave us a bank some 90 metres long and approximately 12 metres deep that eventually became "The Garden". There is also a turfed ramp to the paddock about 6 metres wide where the grand kids love to roll down. However this didn't start until about year later as I had concentrated on planting out the paddock all during the drought, many of them long stem tube stock.



Current View of the front garden at Peter's

For three years the area grew a terrific crop of rye grass and other undesirables that was at first a novelty to pull out prior to it seeding. They also added good mulch. Eventually a spray was easier to apply and after this novelty and boredom of weeding decided to cart in some "leaf mulch" that has more bark chip than leaf but was the most economical. The terrific drought breaking rains gave the ground a good store of H₂O for the laying of old carpet, newspapers and cardboard as a foundation to the mulch.

There is over 130 species planted as best I could with taller Casuarinas, Eucalypts and Acacias downhill so as to not block out the sunlight and provide some relief from the relentless winds this valley block attracts. The garden has provided interest in learning each species needs and habits. Mental note: never plant Rhagodia spinescens with Correas (or anything) thinking you will have this wonderful tapestry garden! Rhagodia is a strong faster growing species and will take over other plants if grown too close. I've lost a few Correas beneath them! My aim is to plant heavily to reduce the space between them in the hope that weeds will not get a foothold. I originally purchased a large quantity of Grevillea ground covers to cover parts of the 20 degree bank, they are Royal Mantle and Fanfare in tube stock. These came from near Casino NSW and did extremely well considering they were delivered during the drought and in June 2017. I don't think there is a day that goes by where I am not doing something even if it's trimming something and using those parts to poke back into the ground. I'm having success with Eremophila, Myoporum, Brachyscome, Rhagodia and lately Crowea xalata where some that were discovered in the shade under the Acacias. I've also found its far easier to crumb the seed heads of Calocephalus citreus, mixed with a little potting soil and shake on prepared soil. It works with similar flower heads and alleviates the wait time with seed trays and the tubing up process. Could be a good system for the Wetlands. Pleasantly surprised with a couple of fast growing Eucs that have flowered for the first time this month I've identified as red flowering E. leucoxydon. Now waiting for the third in the row to see what that is. The importance of preserving tags!

If anyone knows of something I can sprinkle on the garden to kill weeds, please let me know!



Scene of the Correa vs Rhagodia competition

CALENDAR

Sun Nov 8	Rare plant sale Riversdale CANCELLED
Sat Nov 14	Plant Sale - Rotary Markets
Sat Nov 21	Bundanoon area walk
Sat Dec 5	AGM and end-of-year lunch

CALENDAR NOTES : As usual Kaye will send out an email before each of the calendar events giving final details. The AGM is at Trish and Steve's home at 295 Mulwaree Drive in Tallong Park. Due to the Covid problems lunch will not be shared as we have traditionally done; each attendee needs to bring his/her own.

BANGO RESERVE SPECIES LIST (from Ashlea & Greg)

Acianthus sp.*
 Acacia gunnii
 Acacia parramattensis
 Acacia ulicifolia
 Acrotriche serrulata
 Ammobium craspedioides***
 Asperula conferta
 Bossiaea prostrata
 Bulbine bulbosa
 Caladenia carnea*
 Caladenia fuscata*
 Carex appressa
 Cheilanthes austrotenuifolia
 Cheiranthra linearis
 Chrysocephalum apiculatum
 Crassula sieberana
 Daucus glochidiatus
 Dianella revoluta
 Dillwynia phyllicoides
 Drosera auriculata
 Drosera peltata
 Eucalyptus blakelyi
 Thysanotus patersonii
 Diuris pardina*
 Thelymitra megcalyptra*
 Caladenia dimorpha*
 Eucalyptus macrorhyncha
 Eucalyptus melliodora
 Eucalyptus rossii
 Geranium solanderi

Glossodia major*
 Gonocarpus tetragynus
 Goodenia hederacea
 Hardenbergia violacea
 Hibbertia obtusifolia
 Hydrocotyle laxiflora
 Hypoxis hygrometrica
 Hypericum gramineum
 Indigofera australis
 Leptorhynchus squamatus
 Lomandra filiformis
 Lomandra multiflora
 Luzula densiflora
 Melichrus urceolatus
 Microseris walteri **
 Poranthera microphylla
 Pterostylis nutans*
 Senecio prenanthoides (?)
 Stackhousia monogyna
 Caladenia gracilis syn. moschata*
 Wurmbea dioica
 Xanthorrhoea glauca

* indicates an orchid species

** previously *M. lanceolata* - common name: Yam Daisy

*** Yass Daisy



Spring flower close-ups - from left - *Gompholobium aspalathoides*, *Kunzea parvifolia* and *Bulbine Bulbosa*