



WALKS

We had, of course, no walk in August but we are having one this coming Saturday. The destination as given previously in the calendar has been changed and all have been notified by email re this change. The flora we would have seen in Bango Reserve is quite similar to what grows close to Goulburn and as little would actually be in flower, a location with different flora and perhaps more in flower would be preferred. Hence the trip to the Box Vale Track for this month.

Generally, in this newsletter, the account of each walk with the accompanying list makes up the bulk of the contents. With no such material for this newsletter, a few of the committee members have 'put pen' to paper on what they have been doing with native plants in the immediate past. I will emphasise here that this option is open to not only the committee but to all members. Furthermore, it is an option available for every newsletter and no special invitation is required; contributors may remain anonymous if they so wish (as I have below!).

WETLANDS UPDATE

The flooding rains from earlier in the month have brought a welcome change to the Goulburn Wetlands, which had been bone dry for far too long. With the central waterhole now filled, it actually looks like a wetlands again.



Wetlands in flood - a rare sight in recent years

A less welcome outcome was that the Woodland garden, and those immediately surrounding the car park, were completely inundated by the floodwaters, the power of which is evident by the amount of debris they moved. On the whole, the gardens withstood

the deluge very well, with only a few newer plants not making it through. Others have had to be carefully unearthed, having been submerged in an additional layer of mulch. Surprisingly, a number of *Callistemon* which were completely covered for more than two weeks, emerged apparently unscathed, while other plants, better placed on an incline, such as *Rhodanthe anthemoides*, appear to have flourished.

(*Rhodanthe anthemoides* is a herbaceous plant, a member of the daisy family, Asteraceae - ed.)

Saturday 12 September—Assistance appreciated

Removal of larger debris, including several logs, which have lodged themselves in the car park garden, will require a team effort. At the next Saturday working bee, on 12 September, Bill will bring a chainsaw, to cut the pieces into manageable size for removal to another part of the wetlands, where they will create habitat for wildlife. If you are free on that morning, and able to assist with loading the pieces onto a trailer, the extra hands will be most welcome.

The morning usually begins around 8.30, with a break at 10am for tea and catch up.

Thanks to Pauline for that report.

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

The weather has not been the best; however, I will say it has been good for mulching between downpours and adding weight to it avoiding the winds taking it eastward! Still a lot to complete but no-wind days are needed to avoid having my neighbour catching up on years gone by through the newsprint. The drenching and soaking rains have allowed me to mentally map out the no-go zones for planting. Some I'm sure will meet God earlier than expected through drowning. Will need to research those soggy feet natives a little more. My "straight into ground" cuttings appear to be doing well; *Myoporum* sp., *Brachyscome multifida* and some hope of *Eremophila glabra* ground covers. A great saving not having to monitor a watering regime. I managed to sow some *Grevillea wilkinsonii* (Tumut Grevillea) on 21-Dec-19 and am waiting for the other 50 or so to follow the 7 that came through in June. I read on the NSW environment site under threatened species that these can take from 12-24 months to germinate so appears I've a long wait for the others. I've also noticed a few empty casings where it appears they've rotted.



Grevillea wilkinsonii seedling



SAVED - As a Cassinia arcuata was pulled up recently, a seedling of Dillwynia sericea (arrowed above) came with the larger plant. It was rushed 'home' and potted up

Regards, Peter

And now - a contribution from Kaye.

My learning experience over the last few months is to be wary of grevilleas.

Weeding has been a breeze due to the softened ground and many weeds had found homes underneath most of my grevillea plants. They are all cultivars of *G. rosmarinifolia* - so rather spiky.

A day or so after crawling underneath these plants I had very, very itchy arms and rash. Intolerable at times. After a sleepless night or two fortunately Mr. Google gave me the heads up about grevilleas - likely to do this - its called contact dermatitis.

You would think I'd remember this fact, as my (woodworker) husband is allergic in a BIG way to the timber of Silky Oak or *G. robusta*.

So, beware - Kaye.

Thanks to Kaye for that reminder of what some Grevilleas can do.

In recent times the native plant I have had most contact with is *Cassinia arcuata*. For those who may not know, this plant has the common name of Sifton Bush. It is a weed in this shire and has to be controlled; in particular it should not be allowed to cross the boundary into your neighbour's place. It forms dense colonies where it is not managed and in travelling some of the local rural roads, you see virtually monocultures of this species. I have it on my place and I thin it out quite regularly by either snipping it or when the soil is moist, pulling it out.

My recent encounters with it have to do with an erosion gully that I have decided to attempt to remedy. The *C. arcuata* is fairly dense on one side of the gully and when you pull these plants up, they often have a longish root (in addition to the rootball) which is horizontal just beneath the soil surface.

It may be therefore, that this species is playing a role in retaining the soil. Along with this plant, there are a few other similar species growing: *Cassinia aculeata* - grows to a similar size to the Sifton bush and is not a declared weed, Also I have *Ozothamnus diosmifolius* - a shrub like the other two and belonging to the same Daisy family - Asteraceae. It used to be *Helichrysum diosmifolium*. My intention is to progressively replace the Sifton bush with the other two species mentioned so that they become the dominant shrubs in that area. Of course, when you pull up something you leave a little bare ground where other opportunistic things can land

and germinate. Late Autumn is another time to remove the Sifton bush before its seeds are dropped. The other Cassinia and the Ozothamnus are summer flowering so their seeds will go to ground first giving them a better chance of becoming dominant.

The key tree in the area is candle bark (*E. rubida*) and it does a good job in countering the erosion but it can only do so much and they eventually succumb and topple as they get isolated by the rushing flood waters as has happened in the last few months.

CALENDAR

Sat Sep 5	Box Vale Walking Track
Sat Sept 12	Wetlands Working Bee
Thu Sep 17	Propagation
Sun Sep 20	Propagation
Sat Oct 3	Dalton Reserves
Sat Oct 10	Wetlands Working Bee/ Goulburn Connects
Sun Nov 8	Rare plant sale Riversdale tbc
Sat Nov 21	Bundanoon area walk
Sat Dec 5	AGM and end-of-year lunch

Note that the Goulburn Connects is not happening this year; Riversdale sale needs to be confirmed.



THE EYES HAVE IT? Hardenbergia violacea is common locally and is one of the harbingers of Spring. I had not taken much notice of the white 'eyes' until recently. Would make a good Children' cartoon character?