

NEWSLETTER

JUNE-JULY 2020

Email: fjcrogers@apsvic.org.au

Website: <https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2020/>



Logo Image: *Prostanthera galbraithiae* Tamara Leitch

THE NEW FORMAT OF THE FJC ROGERS SEMINAR WEEKEND (24 & 25 OCTOBER, 2020):

Lectures: The lectures will not take place in the hall on the Saturday. They will instead be available online 1 week prior to the weekend, accessed via password for registered attendees. They will eventually become available to the public as we believe this information will be of interest to many keen on native plants. There are five speakers and details are in the previous and this FJC newsletter.

Garden Visits: These will take place over the weekend, 24 & 25 October. There will be six gardens and registration will be required. The form will be emailed with this newsletter and also be downloadable from the APS Vic website. Attendees can choose one day (4 Gardens maximum) or two days (6 gardens). Deadline will be October 1.

ACCOMMODATION

We suggest you simply search the internet for accommodation in the Eltham area and focus on the closer suburbs such as Eltham, Diamond Creek, Research, Montmorency & Greensborough. There are two motels in Eltham, (Eltham Motor Inn at 1450 Main Rd, and Eltham Gateway Hotel at 1339 Main Rd).

There is a Caravan Park in a nearby suburb, Crystal Brook Tourist Park at 182 Heidelberg-Warrandyte Rd, Doncaster East. **Other suburbs to check out for accommodation within 30 minutes by car include Doncaster, Templestowe, Warrandyte, and Box Hill.** There are a selection of Hotels/Motels and a wider selection of Airbnb's and normal B&B venues. **If you need any further assistance please get in touch with us.**

Seminar Plant Sales: Plant sales will occur both online & over the weekend at the Barfield Garden (APS YY Growers plant stock) and possibly Maranoa for Phil Vaughan, (only Mint Bush and Allied Genera species). The online sale will open on September 25 for 2 weeks. Orders can be collected at the Barfield Garden over the FJC weekend. Remaining stock will be available for sale over the weekend.

Raffle: We have some wonderful prizes and tickets will be on sale over the weekend with the prizes displayed at the Barfield. There will be a draw at 3 pm each day over the weekend.

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Eltham Village Centre Management
The Yarra Store theyarrastore.com.au
Shaws Road Vineyard and Winery shawsroad.com.au
Mary Lou Pittard, Australian Artist www.pittards.com.au
Bulleen Art & Garden www.baag.com.au/

OUR SPEAKERS:

Amanda Shade, Kings Park, Perth.

Propagation and Cultivation of Mint Bush Allied Genera. The Kings Park experience.

I began my Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) career in 1998, working as a nursery horticulturist, before moving into the Nursery Curator role in 2004. The past 22 years at Kings Park have helped me develop a wide range of knowledge and skills associated with the propagation and cultivation requirements of Western Australian flora, as the nursery at Kings Park is responsible for growing plants from all over the state for use in the Western Australian Botanic Garden; for restoration and revegetation projects within BGPA managed natural bushland; for amenity arboricultural plantings; and for various research, education and conservation projects.

I also hold the role of Trainee Coordinator, managing BGPA's 11 trainees in the workplace and coordinating their studies. I'm passionate about the training and development of future generations of horticulturists and conservationists.

learning how best to propagate and cultivate these plants, contributing towards the preservation of our flora, and providing public education about the diversity and importance of the Western Australian flora.

Western Australia is home to some incredible specimens within the Prostantheroideae subfamily, and some of them have historically proven to be quite tricky to propagate. My presentation will include highlights of the experiences we have had at Kings Park with trying to address these issues, and how we approach the challenge of cultivating new species outside their natural distribution zones.

Amanda Shade



Hemigenia incana. Trevor Wilson

One of the best things about working in a nursery at a Botanic Garden is the exposure to so many different species that are either newly collected, new to cultivation, threatened in the wild or not commonly seen. I especially enjoy the challenge of

Amanda at Kings Park. Image: C Sprogoe



Image: D Blumer

Kings Parks 50th anniversary in 2015. Amanda is at the front with the vest on with the group of horticulture trainees they had that year

Dr Trevor Wilson, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.

Intimate relationships unveiled! What we have learned from kinships of quirky Australian mints.

Trevor Wilson is a botanist and evolutionary biologist at the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens. His research interests include the evolution of species, such as understanding how plant structure changes to suit environmental influences. His research has ranged from understanding the origin of vine tendrils (e.g. the tendrils of grape vines) to plant-pollinator relationships.

Trevor at White Mountain



Trevor incorporates a diversity of tools to improve our understanding about how different plant species are related, combining statistical analysis of measurements, field observations and cutting edge DNA sequencing technologies. Although this work tells us more about how plants evolve, a collateral is that it can be used in the application of naming organisms (i.e. taxonomy). Therefore, additional outcomes of Trevor's research involve improving our knowledge of the vast and under-described Australian flora, such as by describing new species, developing new identification tools, and conducting research that informs critical decisions for the conservation of threatened species.

Though his research organisms have been broad in scope (e.g. liverworts to palm trees), Trevor has been a leading expert on members of the mint family (Lamiaceae) across Australia for the last decade and a half.

The Prostantheroideae is a subfamily of the mint family, and it is exclusive to Australia. The group is chiefly recognised by the popularity of *Prostanthera* and *Westringia* in horticulture. However, these two genera make up less than half of the subfamily's approximately 300 species, some of which bear such dissimilar characteristics that they were originally not considered as mints.

With his collaborators, Trevor has been studying these Australian mints, from desert sand dunes to rainforest gullies, and employing them as model organisms to demonstrate that there have been distinct shifts that have occurred in pollination through Australia's history. His research on floral form has also discovered shocking parallels of convergent evolution between Australia and other continents, and illuminates the sort of discretion necessary while naming and estimating relationships of plants. With a myriad of new species to demonstrate along the way, Trevor takes us on a journey through the diversity of Australia's own mints, explaining their potential for understanding Australia's evolutionary history and the importance behind conserving their diversity.

Trevor Wilson



Hemiphora bartlingii



Lachnostachys verbascifolia

OUR GARDENS:

Lyhn & Gordon Barfield, Research, Melbourne. The Linden

The property covers three quarters of an acre and was acquired in 2000. At that time it was contoured down a steep slope to the north west and was dominated by 3 massive Cypress Pines, a Candlebark Gum, numerous unkempt scrubby acacias, weeds a plenty, a horse corral and dog runs. Following the construction of the extension to the existing 11 square Nanna house, slowly the landscaping commenced over a number of years by bringing in countless truckloads of excavated fill to form up flat tiers and shape up curved garden beds. We were most fortunate to be donated many very large rocks which were used to create a dry creek bed.

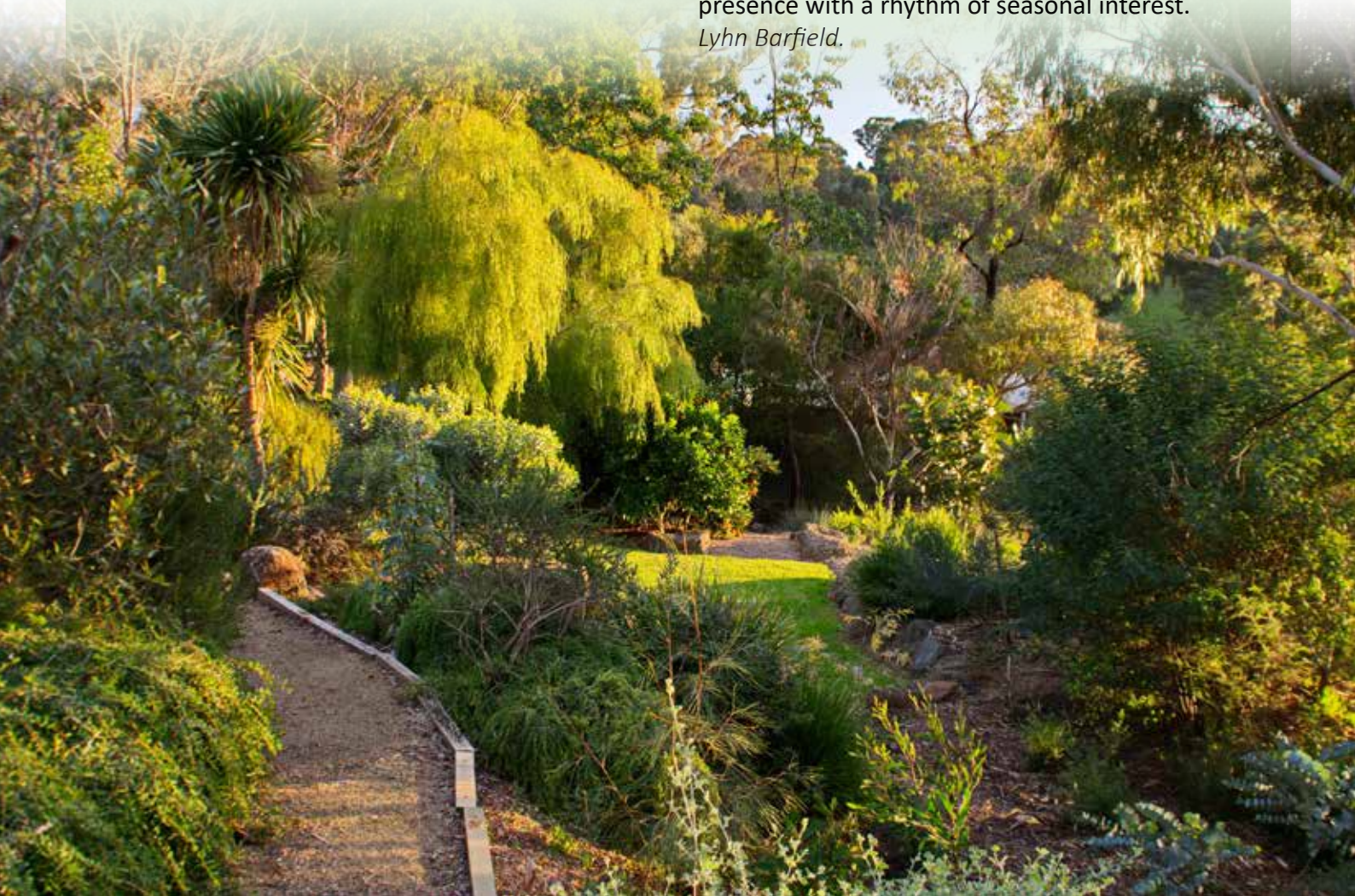
There were many challenges along the way with design and function. The views to Mt. Macedon had to be maintained while at the same time slowing down the prevailing winds. choice needed to allow a seamless transition from the garden to the valley beyond.

Knowledge of native plants was minimal then, let alone understanding fill is not necessarily a good medium for planting. Furthermore the enthusiastic bob cat operator did a very good job of compacting the garden beds while he was shaping them up. It took years to nurture the soil into forming a good humus layer which drained well.

The steep slopes to the west still provide an issue as they are dry and in shade from a neighbouring oak tree. The garden is old enough now to see some plants come to the end of their life span allowing for replacements with some favoured species such as *Eremophilas* of which, at last count, there were 60 different ones.

More recently we have put in many species of *Prostantheras* and *Westringias*. Living at the back of farm land and the Green Wedge, it is a good habitat for rabbits which have been successfully thwarted by placing gutter guard around new plantings. The garden now has a mix of mature and more recent plantings but overall has an established calm presence with a rhythm of seasonal interest.

Lyhn Barfield.



Karen & Manny Giufre, Hurstbridge, Melbourne.

We are on a 5 acre block and the Kinglake ranges form part of our borrowed landscape. We have been here for 40 years with the garden taking shape over the last 20 years or so.

The garden covers about 2 acres of our 5 acres. It's made up of predominantly indigenous and native plants with a few old faithful exotics such as salvias, rosemary and lavenders close to the house. I have aimed to work with the land using plants that can manage the shale & clay soil and the dry conditions. Truckloads of mulch have been spread over the years.

Acacias, grevilleas, eremophilas, hakeas, eucalypts, prostantheras have all done well. This has been a particularly good flowering year with the winter rains, but the downside I fear, is that that I have lost the battle with the annual weeds. After a dry summer the garden was delightfully weedless but with the steady moisture and now the warmth they have returned en masse and are dropping their seeds with abandon.

There have been a few changes in the last 10 years or so. The carport and the rockery have been added. Soil from the necessary excavations was

mounded up to create two new garden beds. Near these sits the mosaic dragon. The dragon has been a work in progress to celebrate the birth of my first two grandchildren (9 days apart!) born in the Chinese year of the water dragon. The third grandchild was born in the year of the horse - she awaits my inspiration....

The garden meanders down the hill. One difficult area to maintain has been where the run-off pipes from the septic tank have been laid. Over the years it has been slowly converted from a mass of giant capeweed and dock to a native grassland with mainly lomandras and poas. The lower path has become 'the *grevillea* walk'. They grow well with the extra moisture filtering down from the 'grassland'. We are fortunate to have the wildlife visit -birds, kangaroos, and the occasional echidna. (Unfortunately also rabbits and occasionally, deer!) It has become a thriving habitat. *Karen Giufre*



Karen putting the final touches to the mosaic. The time consuming job of cleaning and grouting remains with the finished fantastical beast on view at the garden visit. Image: Miriam Ford

Kate Herd, Alphington. Melbourne.

This extensive property is on the Yarra River and has a wonderfully rural feel while being only 7km from the CBD. When we purchased the property in 1994 there was little existing garden – there was a sloping lawn around the house with a few young zelkova trees and the cypress hedge was only 1.4m high. Considerable earthworks were initially carried out before landscaper Simon Rigg began constructing the stone walls that terrace the hillside. Annie James, Sue Smart and myself then commenced the planting.

I quite like my garden to look a bit wild – my home garden is the place where I'm free to experiment with colour, with combining flowers and foliage. I like to mix garden worthy herbaceous perennials with evergreens that provide year-round foliage, colour and texture and don't need too much attention. Native plants and plants from climates similar to Melbourne's – from California, the Mediterranean and South Africa, for example – that can deal with a south-facing position and clay soil are of particular interest to me. The South African cabbage tree or cussonia is one of my favourite plants and there a few different species dotted through the beds.

The main garden features numerous purple-foliaged plants including *cotinus*, *berberis*, *leucadendron*, *loropetalum*, *Eucalyptus* 'Vintage Red' and *Canna* 'Constitution' which has lovely smoky-purple-grey leaves. In the central bed I've used lots of blue, purple, orange and yellow-flowered plants, as I love this high-energy colour combination. The bed at the bottom of the ornamental garden is mostly dry-tolerant native species including: *Eremophilas*, *Senna artemisioides*, *Eucalyptus preissiana*, *E. 'Nullabor Lime'*, *Xanthorrhoea glauca* and *Acacia glaucoptera*.

The performance space area around the kikuyu lawn. It is now used for community events, music and other gatherings. The plants in the surrounding garden beds comprise *Poa labillardieri*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *C. semipapposum*, *Wahlenbergia stricta* and a number of different species of saltbush. *Eucalyptus* 'Moon Lagoon' and other types of silver eucalypts are being grown for their beautiful juvenile foliage – the silver gums near the lower fence are *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* 'Baby Blue'. The bronze horse and woman was created by sculptor Shona Nunan in 2002.

Below the lawn we are endeavouring to re-establish vegetation endemic to the specific billabong, river flat and riverbank zones of this area. Victorian Indigenous Nurseries Co-Op in Fairfield has provided the plant stock here since we began. Wildlife includes birds such as white-faced herons, ibis, wood ducks, crested pigeons and red-rumped grass parrots. Pardalotes, powerful owls, Nankeen night herons and kingfishers have also been sighted. There are common brown tree frogs, eels, blue tongue lizards and tiger snakes.

Kate Herd



The performance space and kikuyu lawn with Bronze horse and woman by sculptor Shona Noonan. Image Kate Herd.