



Mediterranean Gardening Margaret River

W E S T E R N A U S T R A L I A

Hello Everyone

May 2016

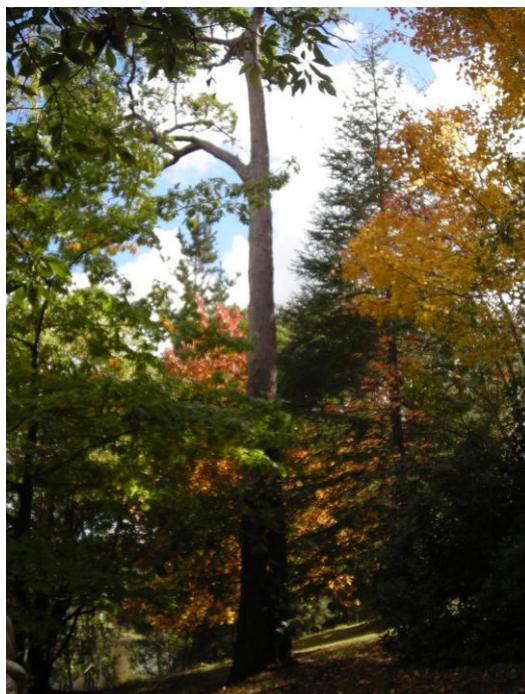
A combined garden clubs visit to Orondo, a large garden in Dwellingup, involved a coach and a significant number of cars in convoy from places far and wide.

It seemed to take forever to arrive but we filled the trip with some plant profiles. Maggie Leggott educated us on Haemanthus species which are a great favourite of hers.

Frank Edwards chose the Australian Wollemi pine which he has nurtured in a pot for years and finally released it to allow it the opportunity of achieving its great potential. Perhaps not in our lifetime.

I talked about an old fashioned favourite which pops up in my mother's garden and now mine regularly, and we can trace it back to my grandmother. I am talking about *Talinum paniculatum*. Look it up if you weren't with us. I also have a rarer golden form which I think is called Kingswood Gold given to me by a plant collector, at which stage I began to have a more healthy respect for this little gem, which I gather is edible.

Finally we arrived at the delectable Orondo driving through a magnificent long avenue of twelve year old fastigate *Liriodendron tulipifera* turning a glorious buttery yellow. We were taken on a walk pushing our way past shrubs and trees in every imaginable autumn hue. Bette Healey our hostess had rounded up her friends who knew the garden well so we had multiple guides to assist with all the questions. This initial section of the garden has matured beautifully into a stunning sloping woodland. I imagine bulbs would smother the ground in Spring.





We were treated to an incredible morning tea and had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets as part of the Cancer fundraising Bette was involved in. With our entry fee and raffles we were astounded at what our small gathering achieved for their coffers.

However time was of the essence and off we went down the slope along the Murray River pausing above a beautiful grotto to have an overview towards the lovely Chinese style bridge. More beautiful trees, shrubs and features. It just went on until we reached a mature sasanqua camellia hedge in full flower created to block the work areas below. Sadly our day went too quickly.



Our next meeting is Monday July 18 at Downsouth, Smiths Beach at 2 pm. Directions will be sent just before. For those who haven't visited this garden mark your diaries, it's not to be missed!

Happy gardening

Julie

