



Mediterranean Gardening Margaret River

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

January 2017

Hello all

At our meeting on January 16th we had a wonderful and enthusiastic turnout. I didn't count but someone estimated at least 40.

We welcomed more new members and thanks to everyone for making Pamela's life easier with paying your membership fees promptly so she can relax for a moment before we find something else for her to do.

Vere and Steve Fairbairn were great hosts and managed the numbers effortlessly. Our microphone proved its worth yet again with no one missing any information. We ran through our plans for the year, which are a bit of a movable feast but gradually things are falling into place and I think we are offering a good mix of gardens and events.

Plants on display proved there is no lack of summer colour with water restrictions and many people went home yet again with plant material and seeds.

We had on display:

Vitex agnus-castus - 3 varieties

Lagerstromia

Gaura

Lavatera Kew Rose

Abelia grandiflora

Dianella tasmanica full of edible purple berries

Scabiosa in various colours

Pelagonium geraniums in some vibrant colours

Agapanthus

Pomegranite Punica granatum

Buddleias Nanho Blue and Woodbank

and many others.

A meander around Vere's garden, which is set in native bushland and has no grassed areas proved that you can garden with very measured drops. All the water comes from two tanks and is metered out carefully. The vegetable garden was enviable with a variety of heritage tomatoes ripening and luxuriant Artichokes still in flower amongst much else. Fruiting strawberries and blueberries were in big pots. The couple use water collars around plants to assist where necessary. There is a lot of handwatering so they don't become too liberal as Vere says she can only do so many trips back and forth before she has had enough for the day. Some wonderful landscaping rocks in the garden had apparently been unearthed when the house was built and there are many more not far below the surface throughout the garden so digging is not a simple matter. A variety of deciduous trees has been planted for their fire-retardant qualities and are all looking extremely healthy adding colour amongst the towering eucalypts as an understory. I loved the moss covered logs and I spotted some

healthy *Isoplexis canariensis* (Canary Islands foxglove) which I think of as a plant requiring a reasonable amount of summer water.





One plant that is performing brilliantly around the region this year is the Jacaranda. If you have travelled up the Bussell Hwy you will have seen the avenue near Carbanup, lining the boundary of one of the Credaro vineyards. The Credaros are planning on doing this at each of their vineyards to make it a signature plant for all to enjoy.

We head rapidly towards our event at the Duggan Pavillion, Cowaramup on February 13 with Matthew Lunn our guest speaker. For new members, Matthew heads the Nursery industry in WA and is an experienced horticulturalist with training in the UK at RHS Wisley before settling in WA as curator first at Curtin University and then at UWA. Matthew will share his varied horticultural career in the morning and then run a design workshop in the afternoon. All are welcome.

Please RSVP to me – Jkinney@westnet.com.au to secure a place.

Morning tea and light lunch included. There is no cost to members and \$35 to non-members. Help on the day will be welcomed.

We will also have a garden book and magazine stall if you have any books you might like to move around. Barb Stockden will look after the stall with helpers so please bring them on the day. This isn't particularly a fundraiser, just a way of making room on our shelves for new reading.

If any members have potted plants they would like to sell/swap then please feel free to bring them, preferably labelled. I would like a volunteer to run this please.

The event starts at 10 am so I would like all helpers around 9am to get set up.

Pamela and I will bring some small floats for the various stalls

Following on we will have Hillview Nursery present an interesting range of Salvias on March 13 at the Organic Gardens in Margaret River. Spread the word so we can maximize sales to make it worth the journey for them.

See you soon
Julie