

CASTLEMAINE

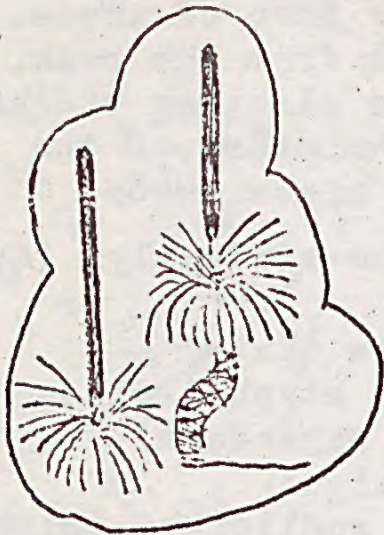
NATURALIST

July 1976

President: Mr R. Bradfield
Secretary: Mrs R. Mills
Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove.

Monthly meetings are held in the Castlemaine Education Centre (SEC building, Mostyn St) on the third Wednesday of each month at 8 pm.

Visitors and prospective members are invited to attend the club's sessions.



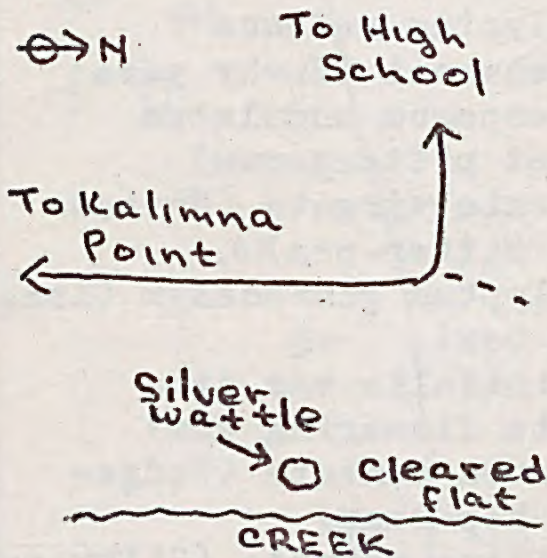
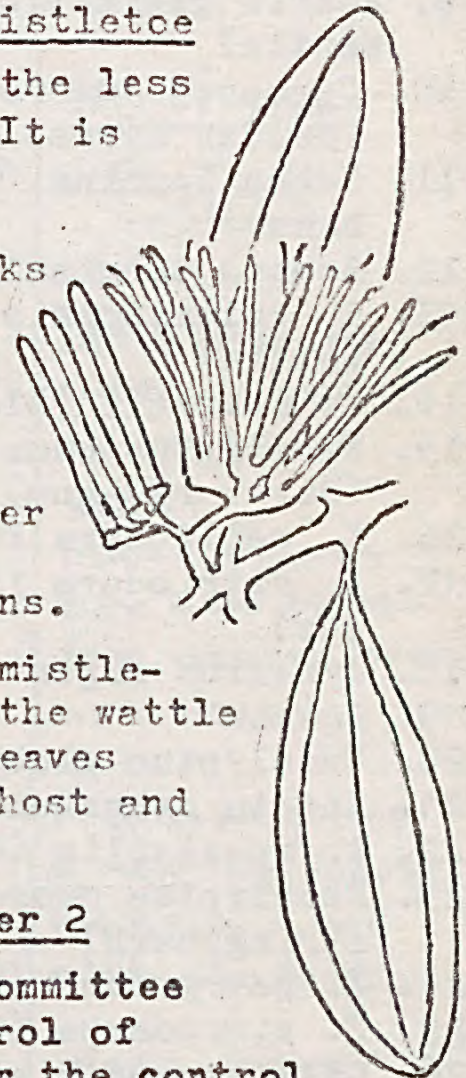
PLANTS OF THE CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT The Grey Mistletoe

The grey mistletoe (*Amyema quandong*) is one of the less common mistletoes, parasitic only on wattles. It is quite distinctive- the leaves are grey and the flowers point upwards, resembling candle-sticks.

The sketch map shows where to find the grey mistletoe in Kalimna park. The mistletoe is growing on old silver wattle on the cleared flat, near the old ruins.

I have also seen grey mistletoe on blackwood; when the wattle leaves and mistletoe leaves

resemble each other. This resemblance between host and mistletoe is quite common



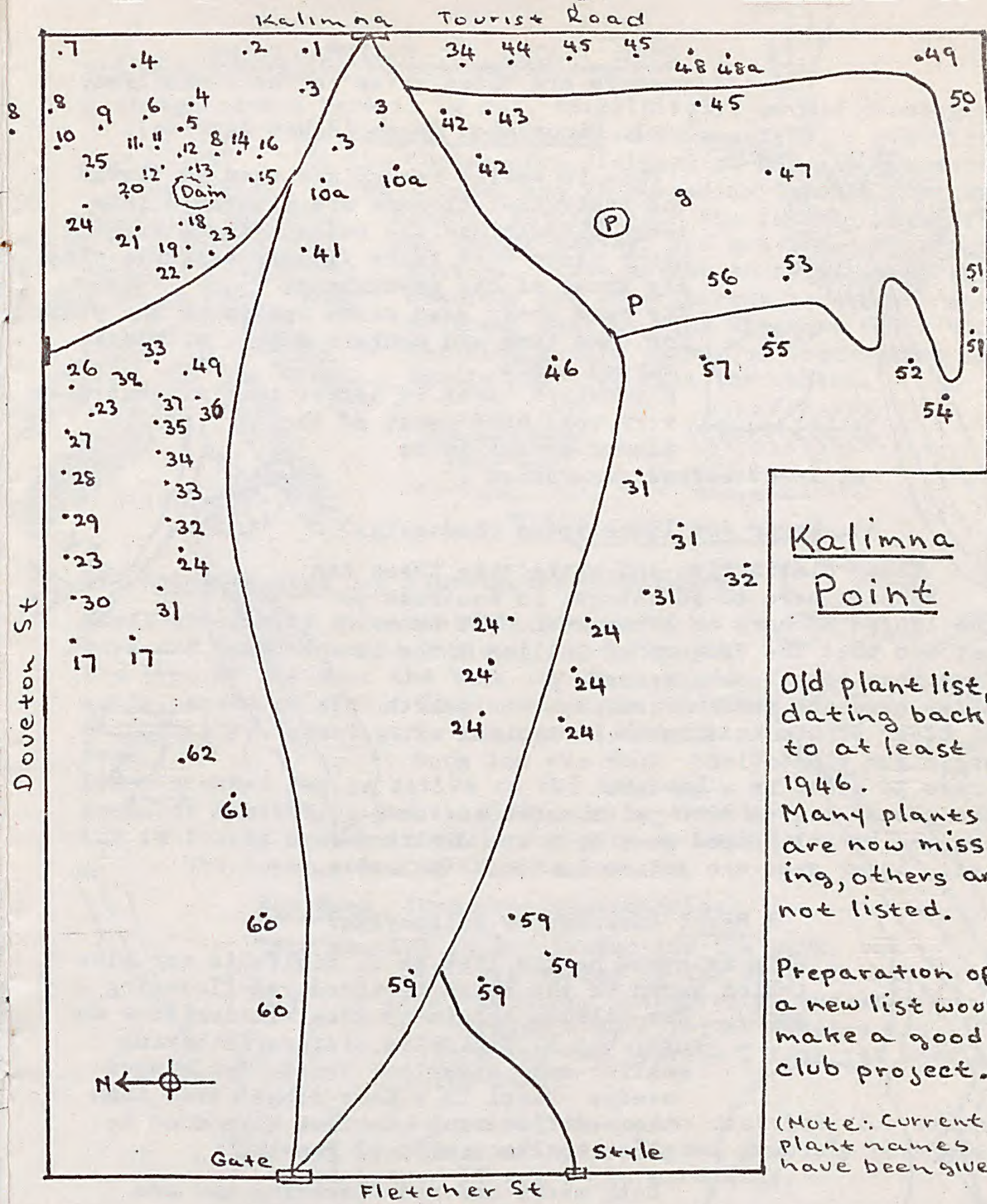
OTHER NATURAL HISTORY/CONSERVATION GROUPS Number 2

The Kalimna Park Preservation Committee This committee is concerned with Kalimna Point (under the control of the City Council) and the nearby bushland (under the control of the Lands Department). It is hoped that both of these areas will come under the control of a committee of management. Dr R. Sisson is president of the committee, Mr D. Walker is vice-president and Mrs R. Mills is Secretary/treasurer. New members would be welcomed. See one of the committee for further details.

KALIMNA POINT- AN OLD PLANT LIST

Old photographs show that the point area was once bare of trees. In those days there must have been a fine outlook from the peak. There must have been considerable effort put into planting the area; it is to be hoped that some reader can provide a history of the point area. Certainly many changes have occurred since 1946.

1. *Cedrus atlantica* (Atlas cedar)
2. *Cedrus libani* (Cedar of Lebanon)
3. *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine)
4. *Acacia aspera* (Rough wattle)
5. *Lomandra filiformis* (Wattle mat-rush)
6. *Danthonia pallida* (White-topped wallaby grass)
7. *Acacia* ?
8. *Acacia retinodes* (Wirilda)
9. *Acacia genistifolia* (Spreading wattle)
10. *Cupressus macrocarpa* var *aurea* (Golden cyress)
11. *Hakea laurina* (Pincushion hakea)
12. *Acacia terminalis* (Cedar wattle)
13. *A. cultriformis* (Knife-leaf wattle)
14. *A. mearnsii* (Black wattle)
15. *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River red-gum)
16. *E. melliodora* (Yellow box)
17. *E. citriodora* (Lemon-scented gum)
18. *Gynerium argenteum*? (Pampas?)
19. *Acacia*?
20. *Eucalyptus globulus* (Bluegum)
21. *Acacia decurrens* (Green wattle)
22. *A. spectabilis* (Glory wattle)
23. *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* (Red stringybark)
24. *E. botryoides* (Mahogany gum)
25. *E. microcarpa* (Grey box)
26. *Callistemon rigidus* (Stiff bottlebrush)
27. *C. citrinus* (Crimson bottlebrush)
28. *Eucalyptus ficifolia* (Red-flowering gum)
29. *Tristania conferta* (Brush box)
30. *Acacia saligna* (Golden-wreath wattle)
31. *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (Sugar gum)
32. *E. cornuta* (Yate)
33. *Melaleuca styphelioides* (Prickly paperbark)
34. *Hakea ambigua*
35. *Callitris endlicheri* (Black cypress-pine)?
36. *Araucaria bidwilli* (Bunya-bunya pine)
37. *Callitris*?
38. *Casuarina stricta* (Drooping she-oak) ?
- 39.
- 40.
41. *Eucalyptus redunca* ?
42. *E. lehmanni* (Bushy yate)
43. *Pittosporum undulatum* (Sweet pittosporum)
44. *Daviesia virgata* (Narrow-leaf bitter-pea)
45. *Eucalyptus goniocalyx* (Long leaf box)
46. *E. ficifolia* var *alba* (White flowering gum)
47. *Dodonaea cuneata* (Wedge-leaf hop-bush)
48. *Grevillea robusta* (Silky oak)
- 48a. *Pleurosorus rutifolius* (Blanket fern)
49. *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood)
50. *Eucalyptus* sp ?
51. *Acacia floribunda* (White sallow wattle)
52. *A. armata* (Hedge wattle)
53. *Casuarina stricta* (Drooping she-oak)
54. *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* =23
55. *E. diversifolia* (Soap mallee mallee (from King Is, S.A.))
56. *Acacia longifolia* (Sallow wattle)



Kalimna
Point

Old plant list,
dating back
to at least
1946.
Many plants
are now miss-
ing, others are
not listed.

Preparation of
a new list would
make a good
club project.

(Note: Current
plant names
have been given)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 57. <i>Quercus ilex</i> (Holm oak) | 60. <i>Ac. praetervisa</i> ? (?) broom) |
| 58. <i>Helichrysum semipapposum</i>
(Clustered everlasting) | 61. <i>Genista linifolia</i> (Flax-leaf |
| 59. <i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i>
(Red ironbark) | 62. <i>Ameyma miquelii</i> (Box mistletoe) |
| | 63. <i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> (Monterey
cypress) |

SOME PLANTS OF KALIMNA POINT
(numbers are those given in the plant list)

11. Pincushion Hakea (*Hakea laurina*)

This is easily recognised when in flower the individual flowers are clustered into large pincushion-like balls. Close examination shows that these flowers resemble closely those of the grevilleas. The hard woody seed cases remain on the plant for some time and contain a pair of black, winged seeds.

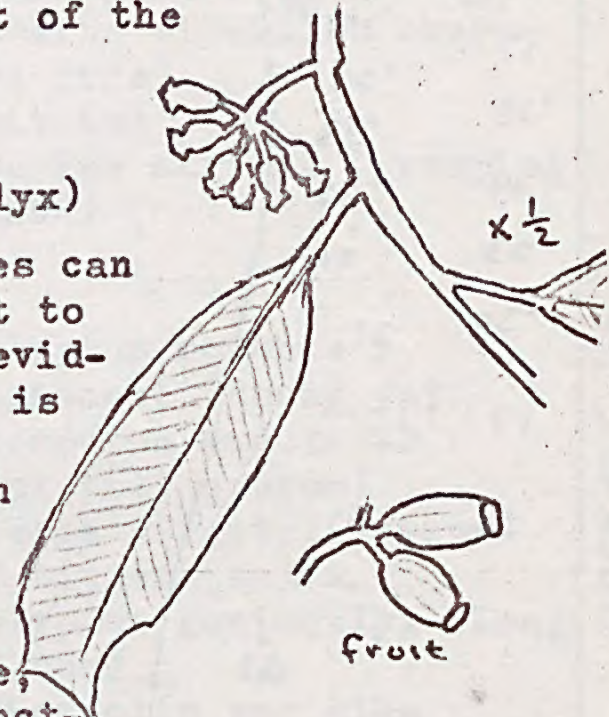
Pincushion hakea is native to W.A., but does very well here -most of the plants appear to be at least second generation .

31. Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*)

These distinctive and attractive trees can be seen here to advantage, in contrast to the lopped horrors so often seen. It is evident too that the dangers of falling limbs is less than sometimes supposed.

Sugar gums are surface rooting; the dearth of other plants underneath is typical of sugar gum plantations- they are not good trees to plant in a garden.

The glossy leaves with paler under surface, and the barrel shaped seed pods are distinctive. Sugar gums are native to South Australia.

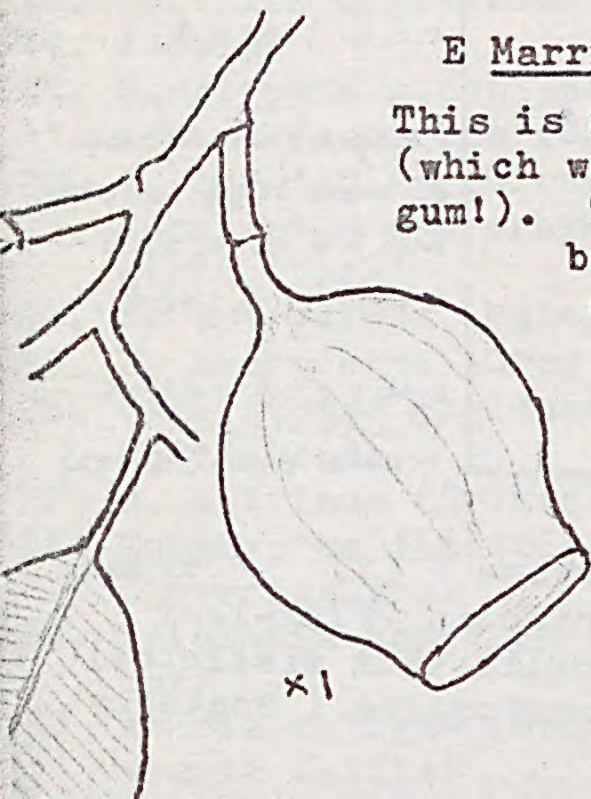


E Marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*)

This is named on the list as *E. ficifolia* var *alba* (which would be the white-flowered red-flowering gum!). The Kalimna specimens show similarities to both, but *E. ficifolia* differs in having smaller more spherical fruit, and winged seeds. Marri is a more robust tree than the red-flowering gum, but here must be close to the limits of growth.

Both marri and red-flowering gum are native to Western Australia.

The undersurface of the leaves is much paler than above. The fine veins are almost at right angles to the main rib.

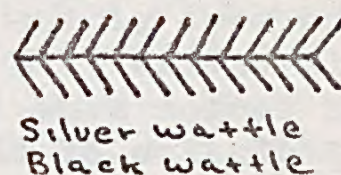
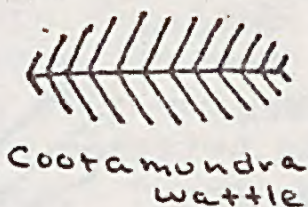


Cootamundra Wattle (*Acacia baileyana*)

Although common here it is not, surprisingly, on the plant list.

The natural occurrence of this wattle is restricted to the Cootamundra district of NSW. It grows very well here, and is spreading through the park.

Several wattles near the rotunda have different shaped leaves, and are less silvery in colour. They appear to be a hybrid wattle. Possibly the other parent is silver wattle or green wattle. The diagrams below show the distinctive shape of Cootamundra wattle compared with the others.

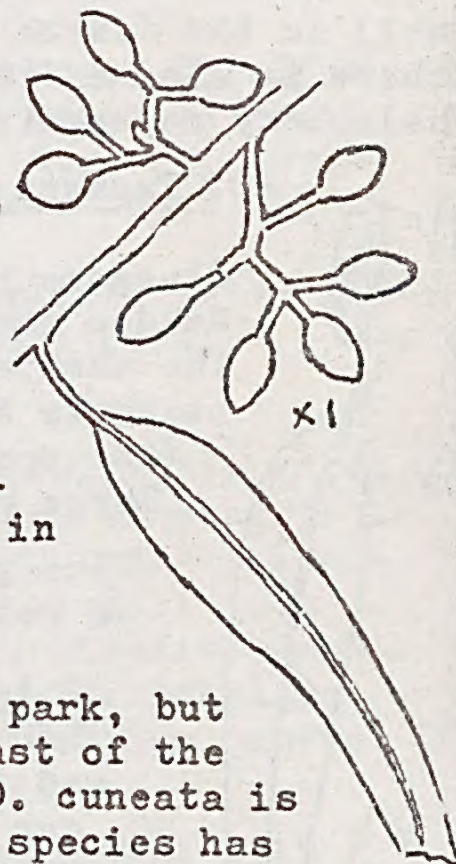


LEAFLETS .

17. Lemon-scented Gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*)

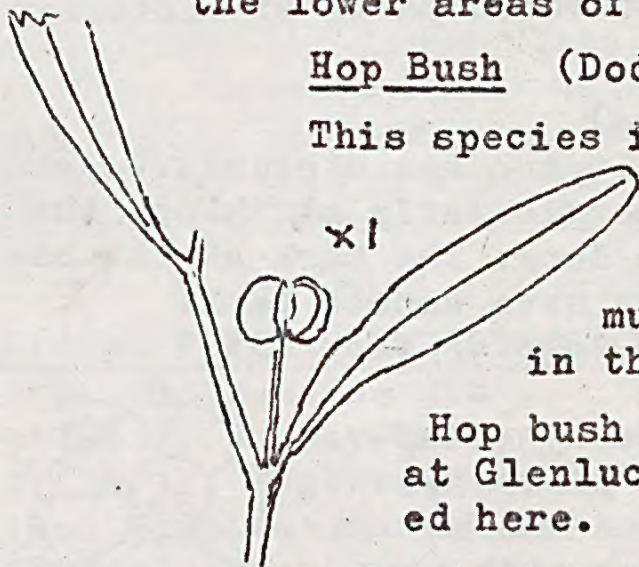
These are easily recognised by the smooth bark and lemon-scented leaves. Depending on the time of the year the bark may be a smooth white, cream or pink. It is sometimes called, incorrectly, 'ghost gum'- a quite different tree.

Lemon-scented gum is native to the tropical areas of Australia, and is difficult to establish in frosty areas; it would not grow so well in the lower areas of Castlemaine.



Hop Bush (*Dodonaea angustissima*)

This species is not listed for the park, but is common to the east of the rotunda. (However *D. cuneata* is listed - this latter species has much shorter leaves- I have not seen it in the park).



Hop bush is native to the district, for example at Glenluce springs. It has probably been planted here. If so, it is spreading.

Hop bush has separate male and female plants. The flowers are not very conspicuous but the seeds have large paper-like wings. When first formed they have an attractive reddish colour.

35. Black cypress-pine (*Callitris endlicheri*)

These are growing thickly near the northern gate. There is a variety of ages, including some very old specimens.

The conditions seem to suit it very well, and it is surprising that this species is not planted more widely in Castlemaine.

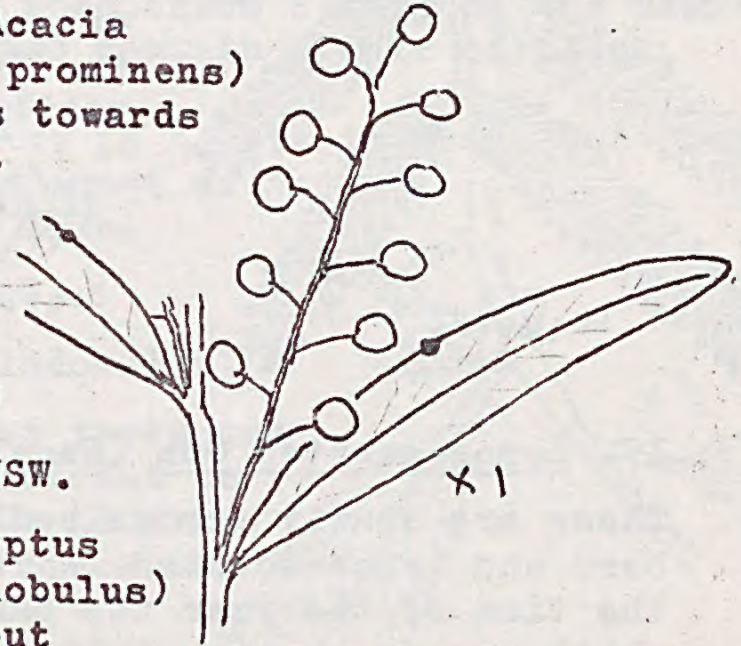
Black cypress-pine is native to Eastern Australia.

Golden-rain Wattle (*Acacia prominens*)

There are several specimens towards the west of the park. Golden-rain wattle is a small tree.

Its common name describes its profusion of flowers.

This wattle is also growing well in the Kaweka wildflower reserve; there is also a fine specimen at the Malsbury reservoir. It is native to NSW.



20. Tasmanian Blue-gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*)

Bluegums are often planted, but seldom show to best advantage in dry situations. The sheltered position in the S.W. corner of the park seems to be very suitable however, and here there are two fine specimens. They are readily recognised by the large glossy leaves and the distinctive buds and fruit.

Blue-gum is native to the southern parts of Victoria as well as Tasmania.

32 Yate (*Eucalyptus cornuta*)

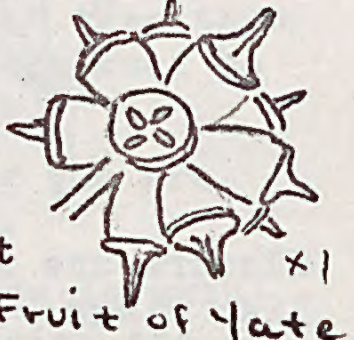
This is a fine eucalypt. It too has distinctive buds and fruit. The buds are particularly striking, the cap being an inch or more long. The bark at the base is rough, but the branches have smooth bark.

There are several growing towards the west

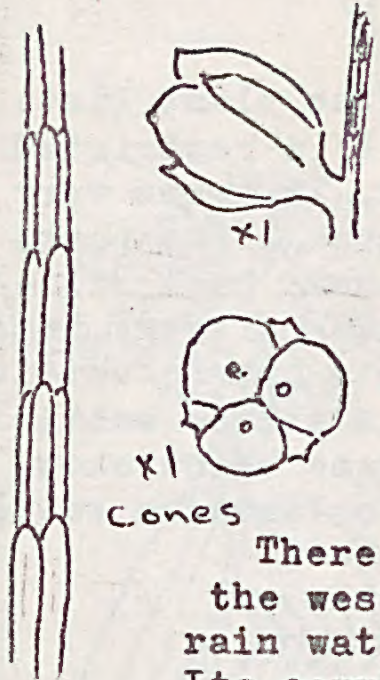
A closely related species, Bushy yate, (*E. lehmanni*) is also in the park. Two

are growing near the eastern entrance, and another is at the western gate. Bushy yate is unique with its large fused fruit. Its caps are also very large- about the size of a littel finger.

Both are native to Western Australia.



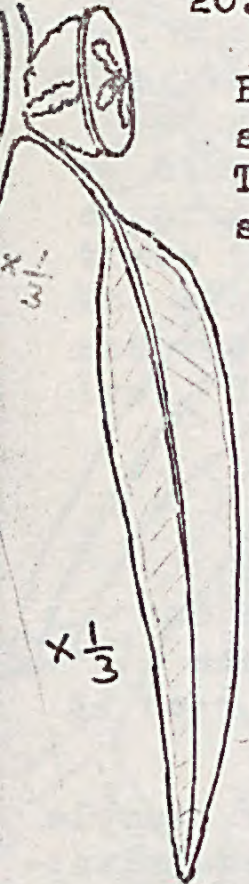
Fruit of Yate



leaves x5



cones



MINERAL SPRINGS EXCURSION

On Sunday May 22 only a small Party faced the cold wind and slight drizzle which did not promise a particularly pleasant day. However it was decided to continue as planned. The first stop was at Vaughan where the flavour of the water was noted as a basis of comparison of the other springs. En route to Glenluce a stop was made on the ridge while a brief description of the geology of the area was given by President Ray.

After another stop at Glenluce the expedition headed south into an interesting area where a stop was made to study the plants among which were matted bush pea, heath, prickly broom-heath, and prostrate grevillea.

From this point the road to Torpey's Crossing and Glenlyon was followed and after the rain which had fallen the slippery surface caused a few anxious moments. However the road was safely negotiated to Glenlyon where a stop was made for lunch. At the lunch site some water birds were observed on the lake, including Cormorant, Grebes and Coots. Plants at this point included Hop Bitter-pea, Wiry Bossiaea, Manna, Candlebark and Swamp Gum.

After lunch the road was followed to Lyonville Springs, Glenlyon springs being found to be out of action. On this stage of the trip the change from Box-ironbark forest to Manna Gum- Peppermint, Stringybark was appreciated, as was the occurrence of quantities of fishbone water fern along a creek bed.

The next stop was made at Bullarto Reservoir where rain fell heavily, then Leitch's Creek Springs and the final stop at Limestone Creek before members dispersed.

Plant List Eucalyptus viminalis, rubida, radiata, obliqua, vata, camaldulensis, leucoxydon. Acacia lanigera, aspera, armata, dealbata, melanoxylon, mitchellii, Billardiera scandens, Epacris impressa, Pultenaea pedunculata, Grevillea sp, Gahnia sieberiana, Monotoca scoparia, Hovea heterophylla, Indigofera australis, Goodenia ovata, Dillwynia sericea, Oxylobium procumbens, Brachyloma daphnoides, Correa reflexa, Daviessia latifolia, Blechnum nudum, Bossiaea cordigera, Acacia mucronata.

(Thanks to Mr Broadway for this report and an interesting trip)

BALLARAT FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB SYLLABUS Has been received.

Aug 6: Castlemaine Dist.	Aug 8-Porcupine ridge exc.
Sept 10: Mr P. Day-Geology	Sept 12-Tarnagulla excursion
Oct 1: Mr M. Westbrook-Ecol- ogical problems caused by introduced species.	Sept 26-Enfield Forest
Nov 5: Mr P. Prevett-Genetics of small mammals.	Oct 3- Durham Lead excursion
Dec 3: Mr A. Sonsee-botany.	Oct 17-Mt Beckorth; excursion
	Nov 7- Mt Cole, excursion
	Nov 21-Camp out-Major Mitchell Pl.
	Feb 6-Anglesea, excursion.

See our Secretary for further details of these.

July Meeting Wed July 21st

BHP nature Films.

Australian marsupials

Dry Australia

Reef of Steel (Wildlife of Bass strait)

Australia Plague Locust.

August Meeting Wed Aug 18th

Speaker: Mr R. Wallace.

Subject: Birds.

September Meeting Wed Sept 15th

Speaker: Mr G. Broadway.

Subject: Canadian Parks.

October Meeting Wed Oct 20th

Forest Commission-Films.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Half subscriptions apply from July 1st. These are

Family: Now \$2.50

Single: Now \$1.50

Student/student: Now 50 ¢.

ITEMS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Support Education Centre

The continued existance of the Education Centre depends, in part, on public support. Facilities for meetings etc. are available to members- cost of membership this year is \$2.

Membership forms will be available at meetings.

RECORD CARDS Mr Winterbottom has obtained a price of about \$32 for 5000 cards. The committee is recommending to the club that we proceed with printing of these.

Conservation Council Of Vic.

Affiliation would be \$10 per year. No action on this has been taken

Walking Trails We will look into possibility of making Castlemaine a terminus for such. Mr Broadway will lead the investigation.

Excursions

Sat 24th July Kalimna Point

Meet at eastern gate of Kalimna point at 2.00 pm. Tour of point area, then to Grey Mistletoe.

Leader: Mr Perkins.

Sunday Aug 8th Porcupine Ridge

Joint excursion with Ballarat FNC. We will meet the Ballarat group at the Vaughan turn-off in the Centre of Guildford at 10.45 a.m. Leader: Mr Perkins.

Saturday Aug 21 Muckleford

Leave Castlemaine Education Centre at 2.00 p.m. Visit shrub-violet and ploughshare wattle.

Leader: Mr Sitch.

Sunday 12 Sept Elphinstone

Ridge, Muckleford and Maldon. Joint excursion with Geelong, Shepparton Society for Growing Australian Plants. Meet at 10.30 a.m. at Taradale (opp Mechanics Institute)

Leader: Mr Sitch.

Sat 18th Sept Unknown Miner's

Grave Gully . Leader: Mrs Mills.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Total receipts so far are \$88. This means we have 11 family group members and 11 single members - a total of 33 adults. News-sheet cost so far is \$4.60. Present balance is \$60-92.

WESTERN VICTORIAN FIELD NATURALISTS CLUBS ASSOCIATION

The next campout will be at Rocklands Reservoir, hosted by the Hamilton F.N.C. Date is 21-22 of August. See our Secretary for details.

Newsheet Ed : E. Perkins .