

A SECOND SPRING FLOWERING AT MYALL PARK BOTANIC GARDEN

Late winter and spring rain has rejuvenated the Garden and brought on another flush of flowers as well as much new growth. A joyful visit to the garden has many melaleucas flaunting full canopies of blossom. Honeyeaters are spoilt for choice and make a lot of noise about it. One bird photographer has spent days camped up in the Garden taking photos.

There are a lot of wattles flowering well – *Acacia aprepta*, *crassa*, and especially *triptera* near the old tankstand at Avochie.

A clockwise tour of the garden has these gems: The *Senna circinnata* is still flowering and has plenty of seed forming. Beside it in the Old Eucalypt section is the *Eremophila polyclada* – bursting with buds - this will be a treat when it flowers. Locally occurring bluebells (*Wahlenbergias*) are all throughout the garden as are *Dianellas* with tall blue flower heads.

The normally scruffy bushes of the *Petalostylis labicheoides* have gone berserk with large yellow flowers.

[Photo right]



At the Garden for all Seasons, the little treasure *Micromyrtus rosea* is just about a solid pink canopy.

Look about for the Eremophilas – within their cages the *Eremophila nivea* in soft grey foliage are still flowering.

[Photo left]



Nearby the *E. duttonii*, *E. dempsteri* and self sowing *E. maculata* are still going.

Further up the garden the five corky bark *Hakea lorea* are worth a dozen photos with soft new pendulous growth as well as creamy flowers. Other plants yet to flower are the *Cassia brewsteri*. Just wait for those drooping orange flowers.

Check out the new plantings in the fenced/

mulched areas for good survival rates after our dismal drought years. But it is definitely the time for Melaleucas to shine. A few to find are *Melaleuca groveana*, *M. steedmanii*, and *M. calothamnoides*. Some Callistemons (now called Melaleucas too) are ready to burst again into blossom.

At the top of the garden take a walk and find the *Eucalyptus grossa* with huge new growth and



lots of greeny yellow flowers. **[Photo above]** Haven't these WA plants loved their winter rain? Ground banksias are ringed with flowering banksia cones. I hope the wallabies leave them alone.

Grevillea insignis, a parent of "Robyn Gordon", is in full bloom – careful of its spiky leaves.

[Photo right]



But it is *Kunzea pulchella* that will steal the show with scarlet blossoms– many more yet to come.

Grevillea obliquistigma gives out its sweet butterscotch scent from many parts of the garden.

The low growing hop bushes, Dodoneas, lure you into thinking they are in flower, but it is actually the seed capsules that provide the stunning display with the arching branches weighed down with fruit.

But don't just look up; there are plenty of native ground covers to admire. Like many western areas, it is heartening to see so much recovery. Let us know what special treats you found on your visit. And tell others about us too please.

Gill Kidd