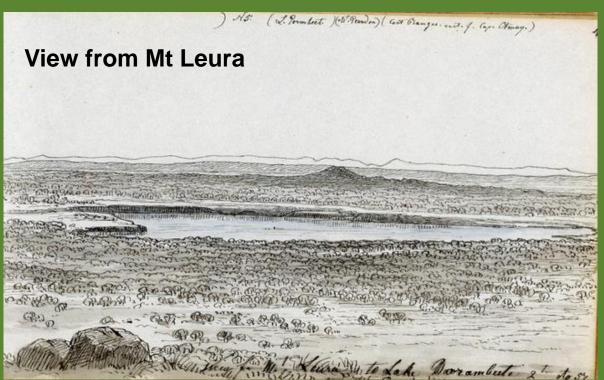


### SETTING THE SCENE – thanks to Eugene von Guerard,1857



### SOME EARLY PHOTOS - ALSO WITH REMNANT INDIGENOUS VEGETATION





1875



### INDIGENOUS VEGETATION included

- EUCALYPTUS ... Manna, Swamp, Messmate
- ACACIAS ... Blackwood, Black, Hop, Prickly Moses
- ALLOCASUARINA ... Drooping sheoak
- BURSARIA ... Sweet bursaria
- MELICYTUS ... Tree violet
- SOLANIUM ... Kangaroo apple
- CASSINIA ... Dogwood
- BANKSIA ... Silver banksia

Plus a range of grasses and herbs

## BANKSIA MARGINATA -- or SILVER BANKSIA, or 'HONEYSUCKLE' ... A VERY SPECIAL MT LEURA TREE:



"the sides (of Mt Leura) are clothed in fragrant banksias"

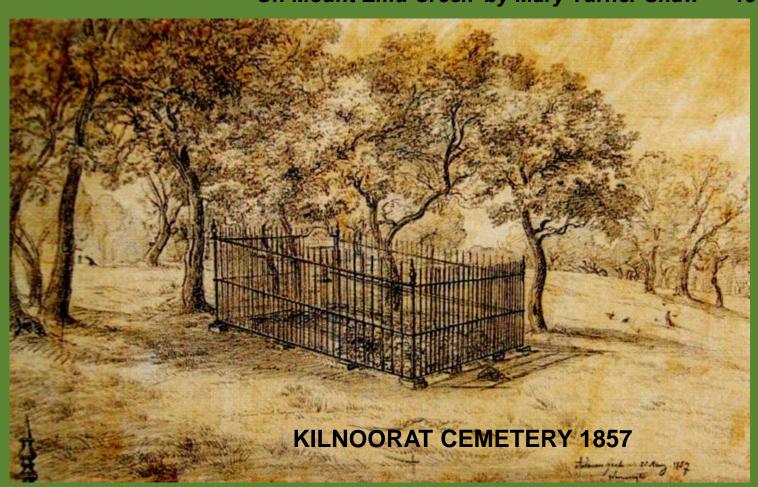
Quote: 'From a Western Hill-Top' Donald MacDonald, 1890's

### **KILNOORAT AREA**

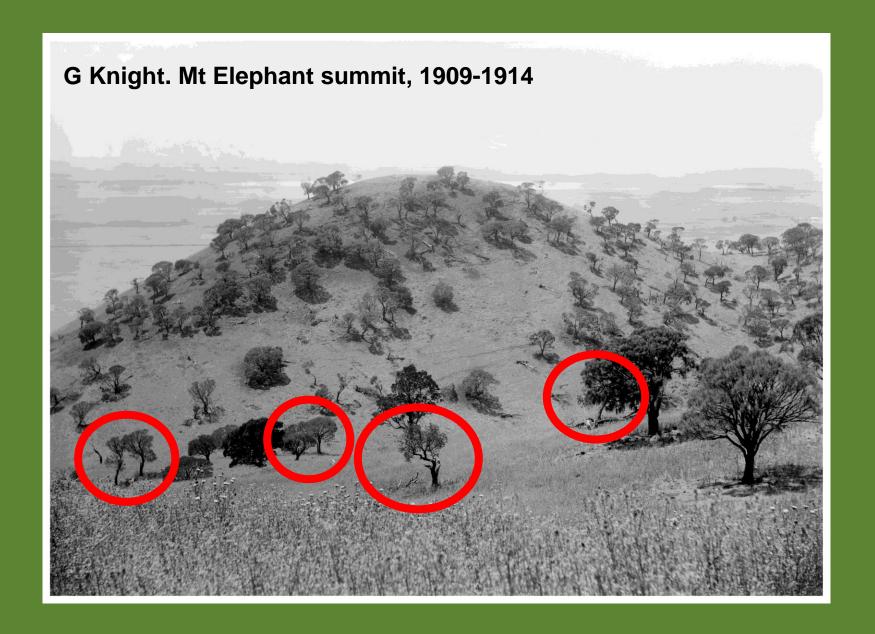
1839 ... re Nicholas Cole and Peter McArthur. "They made their final camp on the east bank (...of Mt Emu Creek), in a grove of banksia trees or "wild honeysuckles' and the native name for both the trees and for the particular place where they were growing was recorded as 'Wuuriwuuriit'. (respelt 'Wooriwyrite)

'On Mount Emu Creek' by Mary Turner Shaw -- 1969.

1857 ...



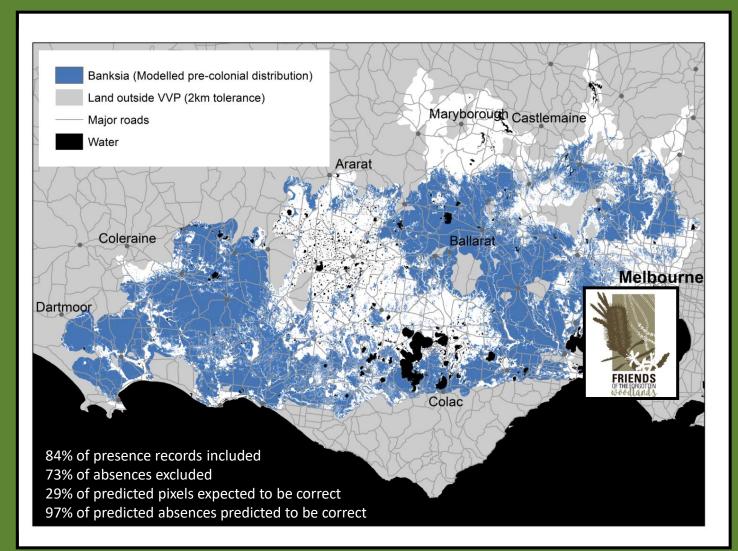
### **MOUNT ELEPHANT c1910**



#### Pre-Colonial distribution of Banksia marginata across the VVP

Howitt (1855, volcanic plains near Melbourne)

"... a wood of Banksia trees, which, as well as shiock, particularly affect volcanic soil,"

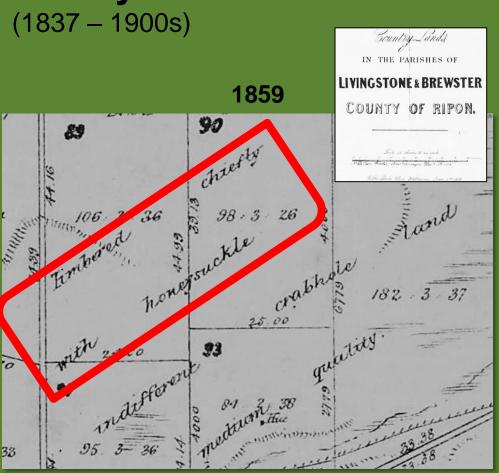


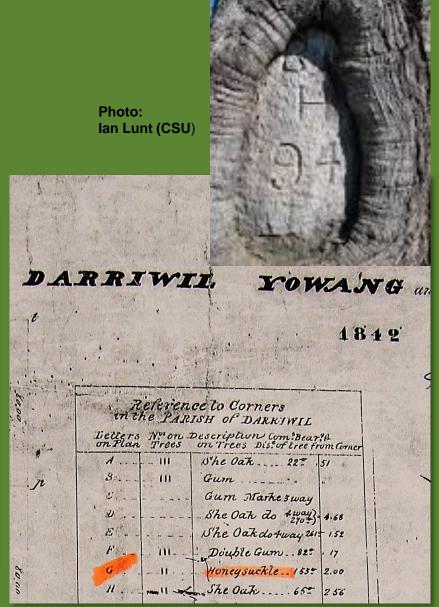
Map by Steve Sinclair -ARI

## OTHER SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE:

**LOT CORNER TREES** ("witness trees")

Surveyors' comments





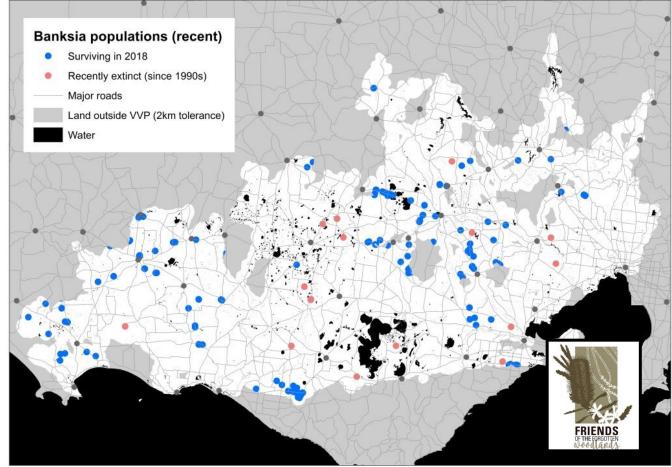
# Banksia (Modelled pre-colonial distribution) Land outside VVP (2km tolerance) Major roads Water Ararat Coleraine Ballarat Melbourne Dartmoor 84% of presence records included 73% of absences excluded 29% of predicted pixels expected to be correct 97% of predicted absences predicted to be correct

### But only 80 years later:

Patton (1935, on the volcanic plains)

".. (Banksia) are <u>wholly absent</u> about Melbourne, but further away Banksia marginata <u>occasionally occurs</u>".

Current
distribution
(2018)
of Banksia
marginata
across the
VVP



SOME RECENT LOCAL REMNANT SILVER BANKSIA ... note number of trees!!!





**DUNDONNELI** 

**STONYFORD** 

# WHAT IS LEFT OF THE REMNANT POPULATIONS ACROSS THE VVP??

- 1350\* Silver Banksias ... the surviving numbers are misleading - apart from the large but declining population of about 1000 at and near Colton's Road, only about 100 old banksia parents are represented in all the other populations.
- 1000\* Sweet Bursarias
- 200\* Drooping Sheoaks.

WHY SO FEW?

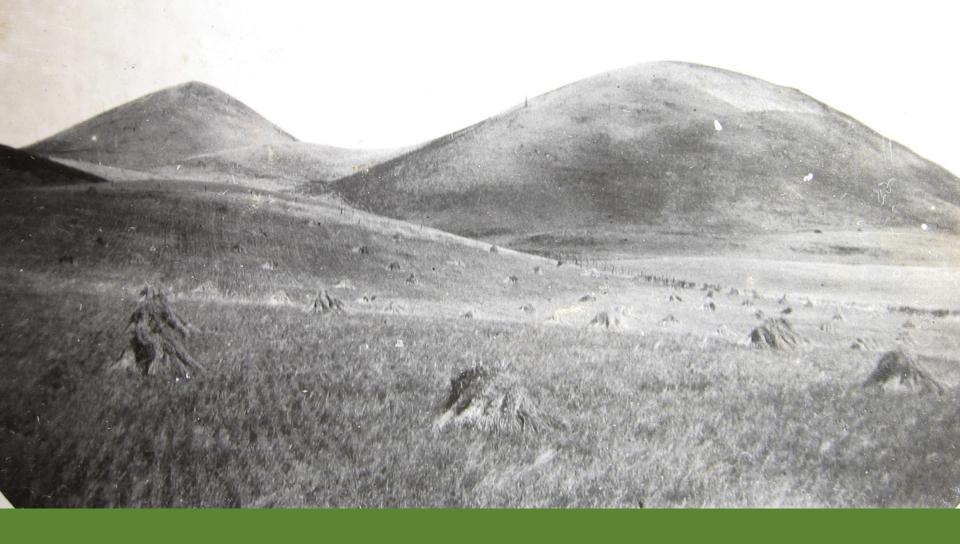
<sup>\*</sup> These are estimates @ 2020 by Bill Weatherly.



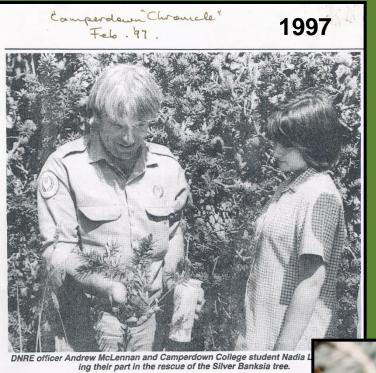
### A VERY DIFFERENT LOOKING MT LEURA and MT SUGARLOAF













### **RE-INTRODUCING SILVER BANKSIA MT LEURA**



SILVER
BANKSIA
and
MT LEURA

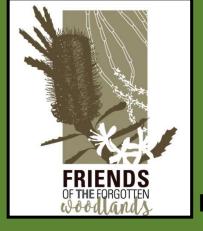


1999 planting in 2007.

2015 SURVIVORS FROM SOME OF THE EARLIER PLANTINGS ON MT LEURA

# The Friends of the Forgotten Woodland Inc.

(FoFW)



SILVER BANKSIA



SWEET BURSARIA

DROOPING SHEOAK





- 2014 GHCMA initial meeting of interested people.
- <u>2015</u> follow-up forum included data collection.
- 2015 FoFW became incorporated as a volunteer group working to protect and enhance existing remnant Banksia marginata and other badly degraded Victorian Volcanic Plains vegetation including Allocasuarina verticillata and Bursaria spinosa.
- 2017 grant to establish at least 30 genetically diverse seed orchards over the next 3 years across the VVP.

### **@ December 2020:**

- 3 SPA's and 31separate seed orchards planted. All trees have their provenance and location GPS recorded. 17 of these sites are on public land, and 17 on private land.
- 6075 planting spots GPS and provenance recorded, with 3281 to add for 2020. So at present we have 9356 recorded trees growing.
- PLUS: 10,250 trees distributed to 55 landowners.
- TOTAL: approx. 20,000 trees across nearly 90 sites.











- 11 different provenances
- Tagged, guarded, GPS recorded, and mapped
- Replaced if dead.





## FoFW INCLUDES LOTS OF SCIENCE BEHIND THE PRACTICE:

- GENETIC STUDIES OF REMNANT PROVENANCES AND GENE FLOW --- just in time to avoid serious inbreeding
- SPA GUIDELINES --- re numbers, provenance mix, planting mix, spacing, shape and recording,
- CLIMATE MATCHING ... 10% from a current location that has our predicted climate in 2040 eg Euroa--ahead of the game!
- DROUGHT TOLERANCE TRIALS ...16 different provenances subjected to wet and dry watering regimes; data collected to compare performance from 400 silver banksia.

