

# Golden

Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society  
Latrobe Valley Group Inc.  
No. A0045337C

Issue No. 322 – August 2023

*Grevillea chrysophaea* – Golden Grevillea

## This Month

Event Annual General Meeting  
Location Morwell Bowling Club – 52 Hazelwood Rd. Morwell.  
Date Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August.  
Time 1:30 pm. (Optional meal off the menu at 12 noon).

To maintain our group, we need people in the positions of office bearers. The tasks of these positions are not overly complex and generally only take up a small amount of time. Please consider nominating yourself for a position.

We also should discuss our meeting times, venue options and future meeting topics. There is the option of a meal off the menu at 12:00 noon before the meeting starts at 1:30 PM.

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# Leader's Report

By Jill Fidler

**D**ear Fellow Plant Lovers, in spite of Colin having a leave pass for July, he still managed to reach you all with a 'small' newsletter. What would we do without him? On that subject, our AGM is nearly here. I will be handing on the very un-demanding reins as group leader. I say un-demanding as Colin, Mike and Cathy seem to breeze through keeping us on track. Our committee have been adept at revolving roles for a few years, and we would really appreciate it if someone else can step up this time to join us. After lunch and the Annual General Meeting, we plan to discuss ideas for coming meetings and will be asking for suggestions from you all. I'm not going anywhere, just vacating the boardroom.

My final 'Odd Spot' is an 'Only in America' one. Wildlife authorities in California have posted a warning to the public about a marauding Sea Otter which has been attacking surfers and commandeering their boards. It transpires that this particular female was bred in captivity and has lost her wariness of humans. People tend to find them cute, but, in the wild they are actually aggressive and dangerous. Thank goodness here in Australia we only have sharks and crocodiles to contend with!



(Photo by Mark Woodward / Native Santa Cruz from KRON4 website)

2023 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar				
Month	Day	Date	Activity	Time
August	Thursday	10	Annual General Meeting at 1:30PM in the Morwell Bowling Club meeting room. Optional lunch off the menu at 12 noon in Bistro.	1:30 pm
Sept			Toora and the Prom visit? To be discussed.	
Oct	Fri - Sun	27 to 29	A trip to Blackwood/Wombat State Forest/Melton Botanic Gardens, staying at Blackwood.	
Jan	Mon-Fri	15 to 19	Trip to Mt Baw Baw staying at Edski Lodge. Pencil this one into your calendar.	
We need to brainstorm some events for our coming meetings. Please give some thought to possible speakers, subjects, places to go, anything we could discuss at the AGM.				

This last month has been a busy one. We were recalled from holiday when my mum had a stroke. A relation sent mum flowers, and they lasted a few days before wilting so I took the opportunity to replace them with a random selection of flowers from the garden. Banksias last well as cut flowers but many of the other natives only have a vase life of a couple of days. This didn't matter, I simply took a small collection of random flowers from the garden every day or two to replace the ones that were dropping bits. Mum loved gardening and flowers, so I was able to keep a patch of bright Australian natives in mum's room until she died on July 22.



I think we should all try to bring our native flowers into our homes. You don't have to be skilled as a flower arranger, just take small sprigs of whatever is looking good and gather them together to brighten up a room, replacing them as required.

Mike has finally had some success getting hold of the right bloke at Blackwood, who apologised profusely for not getting back to him weeks ago. The result is that we are booked in at The Residence (24 beds in 5 bedrooms) to arrive **Friday, October 27** and depart **Sunday, October 29** for a total cost of \$450 regardless of how many attend, to be invoiced after the event. If members wish to refresh their memories, here's the website <https://www.blackwoodssoec.vic.edu.au/>. Cathy has told Mike they are going this time, regardless of how many attend. If we have more than 5 member-groups who wish to attend, then it will be handy if they are willing to share bedrooms. Cathy and Mike can take the motorhome and park it in the driveway if we need to free up a room. If members attend but don't want to stay at The Residence, we'll have to consider how to divide the costs. Let Mike know if you need any other info.



Although we have had our patches of cold weather, the garden at the moment is looking very much like Spring. There are some outstanding patches of flower, and the garden is a real joy on a sunny day.



## Plants in my Garden 199

By Mike Beamish

**Species:** *Banksia praemorsa*.

**Family:** Proteaceae.

**Derivation:**

*Banksia*: Named after Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820), who collected the first specimens of the genus during Captain Cook's voyage in 1770.

*praemorsa*: From Latin *praemorsus*, meaning "having the end or tip bitten off, or as if bitten off", referring to the shape of the leaves.

**Common Name:** Cut-leaf Banksia.

**Distribution:** The south coast of WA, from about Denmark eastwards to about Cape Riche, growing on sand, dunes and sandy hills, though widely cultivated around the country.

**Description:** A shrub to 4m tall, with rough, flaky bark and without a lignotuber. Leaves are



narrowly cuneate (wedge-shaped), truncate (ending abruptly as if cut off), up to 6cm long and 2 cm wide, flat and obtusely serrate (rounded at the end and with teeth). Flower spikes can be up to 30cm long and 9cm wide and contain hundreds of individual flowers which may be all yellow, but are usually various shades of greenish-yellow, pink, red-maroon or burgundy. Old flowers are persistent on the spikes, where follicles may develop containing 2 papery, winged seeds up to 22mm long either side of a woody separator. The follicles usually only open after exposure to fire.

**Opinion:** All these photos are from the same specimen, though taken in different seasons, which highlights the different shades that can occur in the flowers. And the flowers aren't all that the species has going for it; the new leaves are also pretty ornamental.

My specimen was planted underneath the Silky Oak on the western side of the block, where I ►

hoped that the big tree overhead would improve the drainage and/or prevent waterlogging of the ground underneath. This was successful in that the Banksia grew quite well over a number of years, to the point where regular flowering was occurring (which normally takes 4 or 5 years for this species when grown from seed). However, it was unsuccessful in that in 2022 the plant began to lean across the adjacent pathway and eventually fell over. One of the biggest problems with plants from WA that normally grow on sand is that they don't develop a root system strong enough to penetrate our heavier soils sufficiently enough to hold themselves up when they reach a mature size. Mine was about 2.5m tall when it toppled on a windy day.

Propagation of this species is usually from seed, but I had a crack at taking some cuttings on several occasions in the hope that one would take. No luck, they all went brown and crispy at various speeds, some over several months. Not surprising really, people with much more propagation skill than I have said that there are two weeks a year in which Banksias will strike from cuttings, one in spring, the other in autumn. Guessing which week it will be is not something I've worked out! The supine plant eventually died and had to be removed, but I did find a number of cones displaying follicles, so I'm hopeful I'll be able to extract some seed, get some to germinate and return this species to the garden.

- Sources:** Collins, Collins & George - Banksias.  
Elliot & Jones - Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 2.  
Sharr - WA Plant Names and their Meanings.  
Online - Florabase: the Western Australian Flora.



## Western Australia – Wildflower delight.

By Helen Appleby

**H**elen Appleby has been travelling in Western Australia this winter. Although it's not peak wildflower season yet, there have been flowers on display. Here are some seen on the roadside near Coral Bay.



Maybe *Sida* or *Corchorus*



Maybe *Heliotrope crispatum*



*Solanum* sp.



*Trichodesma zeylanicum*

Her journey more recently has taken her to King's Park in Perth.



## Coming events of interest

**Note: Please check the Vic APS website for cancellations before attending.,**

**12 August 2023.** 8am – 12 noon. Celebrating Wattles. Wangaratta APS @ Wangaratta Farmers Market, Holy Trinity Cathedral Lawn. Free Acacia seeds & badges, Displays, information etc.

**2 September 2023** – APS Cardinia Region Group Plant Sale at Acoonah Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick, from 9 am to 3 pm. To be located in the undercover fruit and vegetable market area.

**9 & 10 September 2023** – APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days.

**16 & 17 September 2023** – Angair Wildflower Show & Art Show, Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan Street, Anglesea. 10 am to 4 pm. Wildflower display, indigenous plant sales, art show and painting sales.

**23 & 24 September 2023** – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory College, Kairn Road, Strathdale (Bendigo).

**23 & 24 September 2023** – APS Grampians host APS Vic September COMM. To be confirmed.

**30 September & 1 October 2023** – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

**7 October 2023** – APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. 9 am to 4 pm. Flower show, native plant sales, basket weaving display, floral art and painting sales.

**7 & 8 October 2023** – Open Days at Currency Creek Arboretum, South Australia. 9 am to 4.30 pm.

**14 October 2023** – APS Mitchell Plant Expo and Sale. Wallan Community Centre, Bentinck Street, Wallan. From 9 am to 3 pm.

**21 & 22 October 2023** - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

**21 & 22 October 2023** - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: [rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

**20th April 2024** - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn plant sale. Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am-4pm

**14 & 15 September 2024** APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am - 4pm

**30 September to 4 October, 2024** – ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference hosted by APS Victoria in Melbourne.



*Chamelaucium uncinatum* flower buds.

Rainfall for 2022 (in mm)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	67	30	81	94	60	170	90	198	60	172	193	89	1302
Brian	Drouin (east)	74	11	76	86	75	145	77	199	66	199	183	95	1286
Warren	Yarragon	107	5	55	68	58	191	97	163	64	144	196	107	1253
Wayne	Tanjil South	83	15	63	98	107	130	74	161	96	203	138	127	1295
Peter	Mirboo North	62	8	67	68	50	150	88	189	73	136	157	66	1113
Judy	Moe South	73	13	64	55	93	209	72	165	67	128	236	89	1264
Mike	Boolarra	72	6	74	60	54	162	69	166	66	119	168	94	1108
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	68	11	85	75	46	164	72	161	62	133	171	85	1131
John	Traralgon South	88	10	31	56	28	175	50	136	49	126	146	54	949

Rainfall for 2023 (in mm)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	21	42	101	112	114	102							491
Brian	Drouin (east)	22	44	110	93	118	101							488
Warren	Yarragon	49	35	80	69	119	138							490
Wayne	Tanjil South	25	43	100	77	131	126							502
Peter	Mirboo North	35	57	113	96	132								433
Judy	Moe South	26	33	80	66	126								331
Mike	Boolarra	20	43	114	61	113	101							451
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	24	36	94	65	122	91							432
John	Traralgon South													0

<https://apsvic.org.au/aps-latrobe-valley/>

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**Title page photo: *Grevillea chrysophaea* at Holey Plains State Park by Mike Beamish**



**Australian Plants Society Latrobe Valley Group Inc.**

**Notice of Annual General Meeting**

Thursday, August 10, 2023, 1:30pm

Morwell Bowling Club, 52 Hazelwood Rd., Morwell VIC 3840

**Agenda**

**Attendance:**

**Apologies:**

**Confirmation of previous AGM Minutes:**

**Business arising from previous AGM:**

**Correspondence:**

**Business arising from Correspondence:**

**Reports:**

**Election of Office Bearers:**

**General Business:**

All committee positions become vacant. Please consider whether you can provide assistance in any of the positions; Leader, Deputy Leader, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Website Officer and Librarian. Nominations for the positions will be received immediately prior to the election for each position. If you are unable to attend the AGM and wish to nominate for a position, please advise the Leader in writing or by email prior to the AGM.