



Australian Plants Society
Loddon-Murray Group
Native Plant Newsletter

JANUARY-MARCH
2022



HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY EVELYN



Back in January member Evelyn McConnell celebrated her milestone 90th birthday. Unfortunately she wasn't able to attend our February meeting to be presented with this fabulous bouquet courtesy of Don and Lorraine Mathews on the groups behalf but was tickled pink to receive it at a later date.



ALICE SPRINGS DESERT PARK

There is barely a more majestic site than viewing a sunrise across the Macdonnell ranges in Central Australia and Geoff and Jenny Kenna were blessed with this phenomenon every morning for five and a half years while Geoff was employed as the senior horticulturalist at the Alice Springs Desert Park. We were lucky enough to have Geoff share his experiences with us at our February General Meeting.

The Alice Springs Desert Park is a 50 Ha zoo and botanic garden that was developed by the NT government to boost tourism in Alice Springs. It is laid out into three separate habitats, Rivers, sand and woodlands with each being planted out with indigenous flora plants found in that specific area. The park has access to town water but it has a high PH level so some of the park is watered through a reverse osmosis process. In the sand country there is a man-made saltpan and a gypsum pan.

One of the unique plants found in the desert park is *Aluta maisonneuvei*, which used to be classified in the genus *Thryptomene*. To be successfully displayed in the park it had to have its own man-made sand dune constructed.



Other plants unique to the Central Australian habitat in the park include;



Wildflowers



saltpan



Corymbia arrerinja - ghost gum



Grevillea juncifolia



Leptosema chambersii
Upside down plant



Corymbia opaca - Desert bloodwood



Lorraine presented Geoff with a bouquet

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat March 26th – Neutrog fertilizer presentation and propagation day at the Lions Clubrooms, Kerang, commencing at 11am. BYO lunch and secateurs. All attendees receive a free sample of ‘bushtucker’ fertilizer for natives.

Wed March 30th – Sub-committee of APS Vic COMM and AGM quarterly gathering meeting, 11am at 30 Mortoo street, Swan Hill

Wed March 30th- Sun 3rd April – Melbourne International Flower and Garden show, Melbourne. APS Vic have a stall and 2 presentations on the main stage, 10am on the Wed and 4:15pm on Sunday.

Sat April 23rd – Restdown winery wetland outing. Meet at Riverside park (near the bridge), Barham at 10:30am and travel to Restdown winery, Perricoota for a guided wetland walk. The wetlands will have had an environmental watering and should be bursting into life. Cost of guided walk is \$10. BYO lunch. We will return to Barham via the Lower Thule road. RSVP by April 14th to Linda.

Wed April 27th – General meeting, 7:30pm at Lions Clubrooms. Please bring a specimen to be talked about during a specimen table session. Supper duty is Maplestones and Parkers

Sat June 4th? (Date to be confirmed) – outing to Shepparton to coincide with APS Vic COMM. Visit Australian Botanic Gardens, Botanic garden drive,

Shepparton. If time permits also visit Pony paddock at Congupna. Details to follow as they come to hand.

Wed June 22nd – AGM

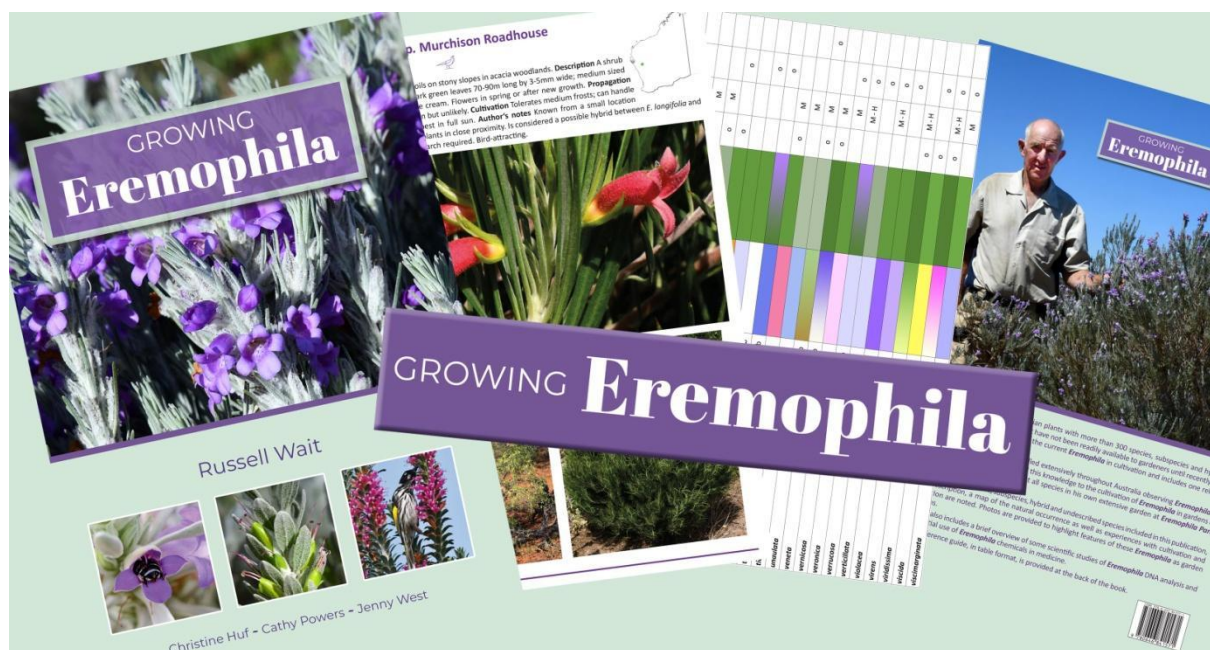
Weekend of July 23rd/24th– Outing to Bears Lagoon wetland (outing and date to be confirmed)

Wed August 24th – General meeting

Weekend of Sept 24th/25th – Hosting APS Vic COMM and AGM in Swan Hill. Need all hands on deck, the more helpers the better.

Weekend of 15th/16th Oct – 14th FJC Rogers Seminar ‘Fabulous Peas’

LATEST ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY



The latest Eremophila book by Russell Wait is now available for borrowing from our library. Russell still has books available to purchase if you would like to have a copy of your own, contact Geoff Kenna for how to get your hands on one.

The details of the book are as follows:

- 504 page
- Hard cover
- Full colour, quality photographs and paper
- 244 described species, approx 95 subspecies, numerous hybrids and registered cultivars including information on:

- Natural habitat, Description, Propagation, Cultivation and other information in Author's notes
- Full section on propagation including detailed 'how-to' and photographs
- Brand new published information regarding Calamphoreus and Diocirea, resulting in the reassessment and recent taxonomic placement in the Eremophila genus
- A unique table has been created as a quick reference guide for flower and leaf colour, bird-attracting feature, salt and frost tolerance
- Common name index
- Scientific name index
- and more...

For those of you that have access to Face Book Loddon Murray APS has a page where you can see some of our activities that have or will take place. www.facebook.com/APS Loddon Murray/
Also APS Vic web site has a lot of information. www.apsvic.org.au with the password for members listed on page 2 of March 2020 Growing Australian.

The Gardening Australia program featuring Marilyn Spragues garden and verticordias that was aired in December is now available for viewing anytime on the APS Vic website.

CONTACTS

President Barry Teague 0429 351 087
Vice President Don Mathews
50302788
Treasurer Anne Hall 54522125
gemah2@bigpond.com
Secretary Linda Coote 0447 134 913
coringapark@gmail.com
Library Contact
Ros Maplestone 54184205

Committee Members

Lorraine Mathews 50302788
Ann Bienvenu 50324391
Lindsay & Ros Maplestone 54184205
Andrew Fairley 0427 182 394
Dorothy Brown 0429 946 366
Russell & Di Parker 54521978

Newsletter Editor

Elva Teague 0427 309 433
edt9@bigpond.com
P.O. Box 1620 Swan Hill 3585

