



Patersonia occidentalis

Australian Plants Society – South Gippsland Group Newsletter January 2023

In this newsletter:

- New method of RSVP to APS South Gippsland events using *Trybooking* link
- Meeting topics planned and dates confirmed:
- February - Twilight picnic, Korumburra Botanic Park.
- March – Illawarra Grevillea Park Botanic Garden & Native born poet-Grace Carmichael.
- Notice of APS South Gippsland AGM – Election of committee positions nomination form attached – see both attachments.
- April – Prostanthera – the mint family.
- Gold Coin entry for future in hall meetings of APS South Gippsland

RSVP to events in the future

Volunteer hours available for organising meetings and outings for the group is limited.

To simplify the process for you to confirm your attendance at events, whether this be in hall meetings, lunch or coffee reservations etc the committee has decided to use the fee free *Trybooking* system.

Each of the listed meetings will have information if a RSVP is needed and a link provided to click on to confirm your attendance. You will need to fill in the page with the required information ie your name, numbers of people attending, email address or phone number. This is fee free to you and APS South Gippsland, but has many benefits to your committee and the group activities.



February 2023 Summer Twilight meeting

Traditional Twilight meeting

When: Wednesday, 8th February 2023

Where: Korumburra Botanical Gardens walk and picnic

NOTE: Enter from Bridge St. Korumburra, drive through the open park entry follow the track and park close to the Rotunda.

Time: from 5pm

RSVP not needed

Bring the usual items to the twilight picnic your chair, plates, cutlery, drink glasses, food and refreshments etc and warm clothing for sitting outside. Binoculars too! A member of the Friends' group will meet us and tell us about the future plans for the Park by the group.

Located just a few minutes north from the town centre, the Botanic Gardens are a little-known gem of the town. The sprawling 12-acre garden features beautiful wooded areas of established trees – a mix of European trees and natives, some over 100 years old. These provide a stunning background for the Korumburra Tourist Park (caravan park).

There are several walking paths around the park, including between Bridge St and Bourke St. Olsen's Walk follows the banks of Coalition Creek across picturesque foot bridges and wanders through mostly native bush land. It is 700m in length and takes approximately 15 minutes. This walk presently needs some maintenance and may not be accessible in February 2023.

As you stroll, you'll be greeted by and hear a variety of bird life and most likely see some native birds.

Open grassy areas offer visitors a relaxing environment for a picnic and a wonderful place to stroll or rest. There is also an undercover dining area, including two rotundas with tables, but **no public toilets or BBQ**. The closest public toilets are located behind Kelly's Bakery, Commercial Road, Korumburra.

PS. The Botanic Park logo was designed and drawn by very talented artist and APS South Gippsland member, Vicki Philipson.

Meeting 8 March 2023 – 2 speaker presentations

Illawarra Grevillea Park Botanic Garden &

Native born poet, Grace Carmichael 1867- 1904

AGM of Australian Plants Society South Gippsland

When: Wednesday, 8th March

Where: Koonwarra Memorial Hall, 4 Koonwarra-Inverloch Rd, Koonwarra

Time: 1.30 PM

RSVP required: <https://www.trybooking.com/CFQLE>

John Elton is the Illawarra Grevillea Park Botanic garden manager and will introduce the garden and his work there:

The Illawarra Grevillea Park Botanic Garden is nestled at the base of the Illawarra escarpment in Bulli NSW – about an hour south of Sydney. Unlike other Botanic Gardens the focus of the Park is on arguably our most spectacular and popular species, Grevilleas. The Park houses plants from all over Australia as well as a magnificent display of our very best cultivars.

However, there is much more to the Park than Grevilleas. Set on 40 acres, the Park has extensive display gardens, a rainforest, a sensory walk, a vine forest, picnic areas, an historic chapel, in addition to a multitude of other native species and cultivars. The work done at the Park is crucial from a scientific and conservation perspective. But equally as important for the Park is encouraging people to get the plants into their own gardens.

Such is the diversity and beauty of the native flora that each season at the Park brings a different experience. Visitors often visit several times per year to explore both the display gardens and the

bushland. While many like to search for species, or the unique and endangered, many look forward to visiting in Spring when the Park when mass displays of Grevillea hybrids are a sight to behold.

Ray Brown is the founder Illawarra Grevillea Park will present a discussion of his collection of Wattle ephemera and his discovery of the “forgotten” poet Grace Elizabeth Jennings Carmichael (1867-1904):

My interest in this poet, who was noted in 1920 as “Australia’s First Native Born Female Poet,” came about as I was putting together a collection of wattle and wattle ephemera over the past fifteen years. One of the criteria in my collection has been to collect poems about wattle or with wattle in the poem and Grace Jennings Carmichael had such poems.

I felt that Grace was one of those forgotten women from the late 1800s, is a poet we need to remember. Born on 24 February 1867 at Ballarat, her family moved around Victoria which developed her love of the Gippsland forest. She began to express in verse her understanding of the sights, scents and sounds of the bush, often writing in some remote clearing, her manuscripts stored for privacy in a hollow trunk.

By the time she was in her early twenties, her poems were gaining attention and were published as *Poems* in Melbourne and London in 1895. She was a member of the Austral Salon, and in September 1895 she gave a well-publicised lecture on 'The Spirit of the Bush', with Alfred Deakin in the chair.

Grace died of pneumonia in London on 9 February 1904, but it wasn't until 1910 that a selection of her poems was published to some acclaim in Melbourne and in 1927 a white marble book was placed on Grace's grave in London. Plaques were later unveiled to her memory at Orbost (1937) and Ballarat (1938).

Ray has written a book about Grace and will discuss the book at our meeting. This is a very rare opportunity our group has to hear about these 2 fascinating topics.

Meeting 12 April 2023 Prostanthera species, the mint family by Miriam Ford, President Australian Plants Society Victoria

When: Wednesday 12th April 2023

Where: Koonwarra Memorial Hall, 4 Koonwarra-Inverloch Rd, Koonwarra

Time: 1.30 PM

RSVP required: <https://www.trybooking.com/CFTDJ>

Miriam has been a member of APS Victoria for over 25 years and has served in various executive positions in the Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Group, and in Australian Plants Society Victoria where she is currently President.

Miriam chaired the 13th Fred Rogers Biennial Seminar on Mint Bushes and Allied Genera in 2020 for APS Vic.

Prostanthera species is the topic Miriam will present to our group, plus some insights to Australian Plants society Victoria and other district group activities.

Some Prostanthera plants may be available for sale at this meeting, cash only sales, please have small denominations ready.

Future meetings of APS South Gippsland.

Membership fees of our district group have remained at \$10 per household for quite some time. With a view to ensure financial viability of our district group your committee has decided to ask members and visitors for a gold coin donation when attending an 'in hall' meeting. A welcome desk will be at the entry with a place to accept your coins. Please have exact change ready.