



Australian Plants Society Wangaratta Inc. May 2024 Newsletter

Meetings - our meetings are usually held in the Masonic Lodge Hall, 101 Appin Street, Wangaratta, @ 7pm, on the 4th Thursday February thru' November, with a mid-winter break in July.

Outings - Visits to local gardens and places of natural beauty are organised on a Saturday or Sunday, usually following the monthly meetings.

Propagation Days are held on selected Saturdays in the warmer months.

Visitors are always welcome.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2024

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
MAY		
Thursday 23 rd	Club Meeting & Guest Speaker	7pm. Guest Speaker - Sophie Enders. <i>Gardens for Wildlife.</i>
Sunday 26 th	Outing	Outing to Winton Wetlands – Contact -- Gillian Anderson.
JUNE		
Wednesday 5 th	Committee meeting	5.30pm at the Masonic Hall. Appin Street
Thursday 27 th	Club Meeting & Guest Speaker	7pm. Guest presenter – Isabel Young. <i>Dyeing materials using native plants.</i>
Saturday 29 th	Workshop	9.30am – 12.30pm. Workshop with Isabel Young. <i>Dyeing materials using native plants.</i> @ 475 Shanley Street Wangaratta South.



----- Our May Meeting Focus

GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE

The APS Wangaratta Inc. group will be hosting Sophie Enders, the Project coordinator for Swamps, Rivers and Ranges (SRR) at our May meeting. Sophie has an extensive involvement in local conservation, having previously worked in the Bush Regeneration Team at Wangaratta Council. Her many current roles include teaching at Charles Sturt University as well as being the Executive Officer for the Albury Conservation Company.

Sophie has long been involved in both bird and mammal monitoring in North-East Victorian region and works with community groups and private landholders as well as both government and non-government agencies.

One of the focuses of SRR is to encourage communities to plant native species to provide habitat and food sources for local native fauna.

Join us on May 23rd at 7 PM for Sophie's presentation on 'Gardens for Wildlife'.



APS Wangaratta visit to Winton Wetlands

Sunday 26th May 10.30am

We plan to meet at THE DUCKPOND which is just near the corner of Lake Mokoan Road with Glenrowan Boweya Road.



We will have morning tea here.

Please bring morning tea to share and thermos, and a chair. We will bring a table.

There are no toilets or facilities at this location.

Please wear sturdy shoes or boots.

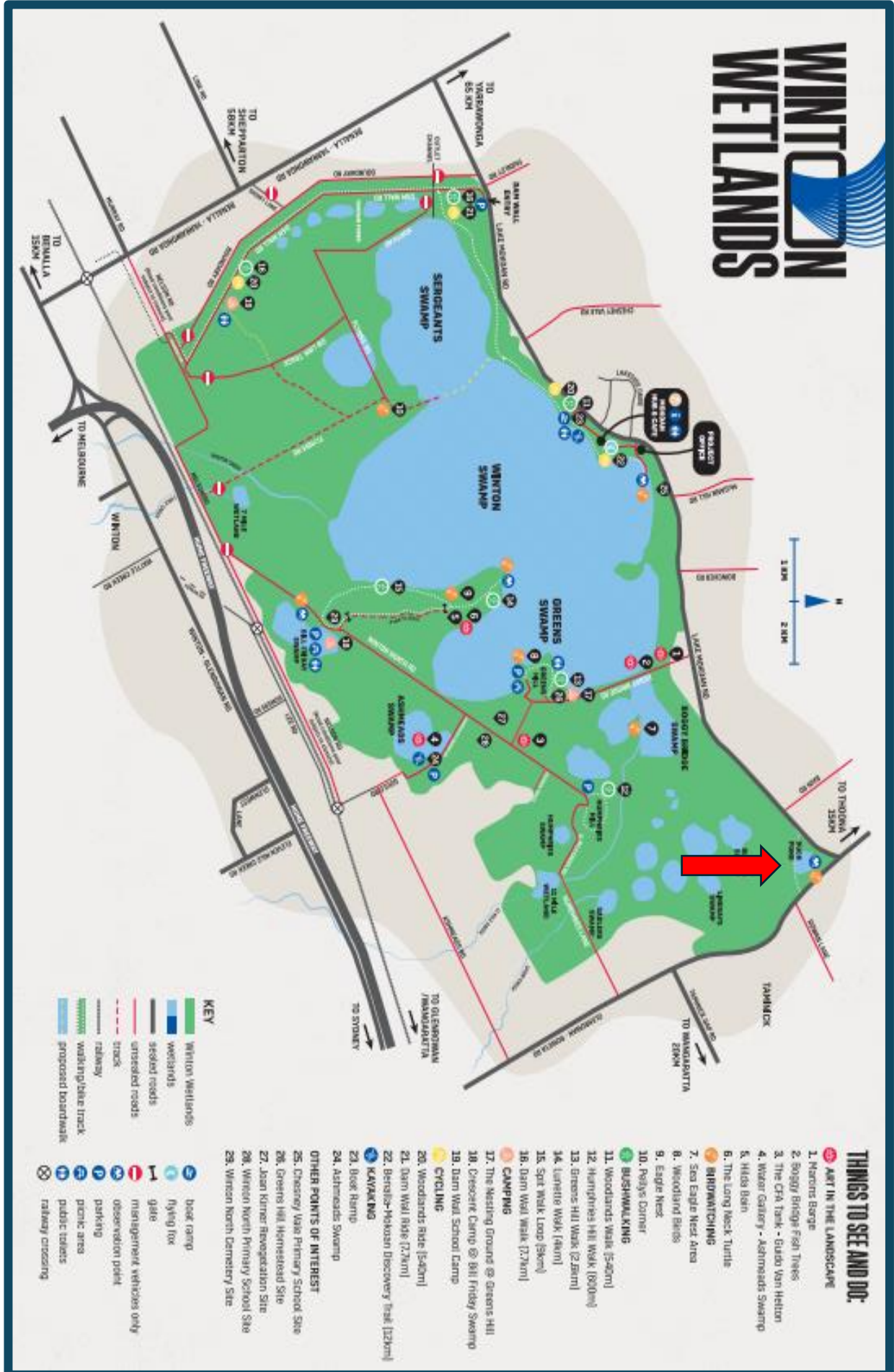
We will have a wander around this area which has been revegetated then drive to Boggy Creek Road to admire the artwork.

Lunch will be at “The Hub”, either bring a picnic lunch or you can purchase lunch at the Café.

Please let me know if you are coming.

Gillian: 0411 111830

or PDGA280@bigpond.com



FROM THE APRIL MEETING.....

At short notice, our anticipated guest speaker was unable to attend, Our sincere thanks to Gillian and Paul who rose to the occasion and presented an interesting and informative overview of the re-establishment of the **Winton Wetlands** following the decommissioning of Lake Mokoan.



We look forward to visiting the Wetlands on Sunday May 26th for a guided tour to be led by Gillian and Paul.

Correas and Banksias were well represented on our display table.





Many thanks to Therese who organises our display table and leads us gently into learning more about our precious Australian flora.



Neutrog Orders

Neutrog is a company that develop a large range of products aimed at both improving the soil and fertilising your plants, including specialised products suitable for native plants. Members of APS Wangaratta Inc, have access to the Neutrog bulk-supply agreement, if they have ticked the “Register me with Neutrog” box (shown below) when they joined APS. If you have not already joined and wish to, please ensure you tick this box when you next membership renewal.

Neutrog

Yes, register me with Neutrog

APS Victoria and Neutrog (www.neutrog.com.au) have an agreement for discounts for products such as Bush Tucker™. If you tick this option and your district group participates in the Neutrog bulk-supply arrangement your email will be given to Neutrog. You will receive occasional email newsletters and be eligible for bulk delivery savings. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Following your registration you will receive a monthly email from Neutrog, with planting and fertilising guides. Four times/year you will also receive an email confirming the deadline for the orders for the upcoming bulk delivery. If you wish to place an order for the next delivery, you must log on and place your order directly with Neutrog by the cut-off date. The bulk-supply arrangement means that all orders for the Wangaratta members are combined by Neutrog, once/quarter and then delivered to a single address - the Van Riet home address Corner of Shanley & Cox Road, 1st gate 100m from the corner on Cox Road, Wangaratta, 3676, VIC.

Helen and John let us know when the order has arrived, and we arrange to collect our order from their home at a mutually convenient time.

Please note that the APSVic secretary informed members on April 19th that:

As members of APS district groups, we can access special prices on orders placed directly with Neutrog. When members join or renew membership, when they tick the Neutrog box a list of those members is then forwarded to Neutrog so that special pricing can be validated on members orders.

John King has agreed to maintain this register with Neutrog, so that DG secretaries do not need to make separate contact with Neutrog.

Should members wish to withdraw from Neutrog they can of course do this at any time (via email to John King webadmin@apsvic.org.au).

Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*)

Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) is a micro-fungus which was first identified in northern NSW in 2010. Since then, it has spread very quickly, with 80 sites identified in Victoria, including production nurseries, wholesale outlets and private gardens. According to the Agriculture Victoria website, it has not yet been detected in Victorian natural environment, though it has been found in public parks and private residences. Detection locations include Shepparton and Ballarat. Spores are spread by wind, animals and humans. As the name suggests, it attacks species of the Myrtaceae family (including *Malaleuca spp.*, *Callistemon spp.*, *Chamelaucium spp.* and *Leptospermum spp.* and of course *Eucalyptus spp.*). It is most commonly visible as a yellow powdery substance on new leaves, buds and flowers. It can result in defoliation of a plant, impact seed production and ultimately result in its death. Only one strain is currently found in Australia but there are several, more virulent strains identified overseas.



CC0 Peter de Lange

Australia has over 2000 species in the Myrtaceae family and as of 2017, 382 were already identified as being susceptible to this strain of Myrtle Rust, with 15 species considered at risk of extinction in the wild. Local extinctions of some plant species were observed within four years of initial detection. This has not only reduced the genetic diversity for a given species, but it has also forever altered the associated ecosystems.

There is a significant amount of research being undertaken on this fungus in Australia, including the iNaturalist project 'Gum Tree Guardians'. They are asking people to post photos of the disease where they observe it, and if possible, to identify the plant species on which it was seen.

(<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/gum-tree-guardians>). This project aims to confirm current distribution of the fungus as well as the plants it is impacting.

This fungus could not only have a devastating affect on many species grown in our gardens, but also has the potential to then spread to our native areas. It is very important to stay vigilant and to report and manage any occurrences ([home gardeners](#)). (Coincidentally, there is a brief article on a high-tech treatment for Myrtle Rust in the March 2024 Growing Australian.)

Acacia flowers and foliage

Contributed by Pina Tiso.

When visiting a nursery, the plants in flower catch your eye and tend get more attention than those which have only foliage. The attraction may however be short-lived as the flower fades, and you are then left with a plant which may not very inspiring. Likewise, some plants produce flowers over an extended period and others, including some of our semi-arid acacias, flower in response to a significant rain event, irrespective of the time of year. In contrast, other plants have unique foliage, while the flower may be relatively small or understated. The foliage across the *Acacia* genus is varied and can add interest to a garden when not in flower.

Acacia triptera (Spur-wing wattle), pictured on the left, is a species native to the Warby Ranges, has dense prickly grey-green phyllodes and bears bright yellow spike-shaped flowers. It is also a great habitat plant, offering protection for our little birds.



In contrast, *Acacia baileyana* (Cootamundra Wattle) has silvery-grey feathery, bi-pinnate leaves, with yellow-globular flowers in long racemes and purple tinged pods. The foliage is often prized by florists, but although it is often used in gardens, it is classified as an environmental weed species in Northeast Victoria.

Likewise, (another environmental weed), which has very different foliage, is *Acacia podalyrifolia* (Mt



Morgan Wattle). Its foliage consists of relatively large silver-grey elliptical or oval shaped phyllodes, that alternate along stems.

At the other extreme *Acacia aphylla* (Leafless rock wattle), is a spiny, leafless wattle which grows



naturally in arid areas of southern Western Australia. It bears globular flowers at each axil, and long linear pods.

The flowering period of the *Acacia* species varies considerably, and I have often read that you can have an Acacia flowering in your garden any month of the year. This is obviously a broad statement, with local soil and climate conditions playing a major part as to which species will survive, if not thrive in your garden. Acacias are however very hardy and adaptable and hence some have become environmental weeds, but on the positive side, can provide vital habitat for our native fauna. Following is a table, I created from Leon Costerman's "Native Trees and Shrubs of South-Eastern Australia" as a ready reference for which acacias are in flower in the North East at different times of the year.

Scientific name	Common name	Flowering season											
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Acacia beckleri</i>	Barrier Range wattle												
<i>Acacia boormanii</i>	Snowy River wattle												
<i>Acacia buxifolia</i>	Box-leaf wattle												
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver wattle												
<i>Acacia Genitifolia</i>	Spreading wattle												
<i>Acacia implexa</i>	Lightwood												
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood												
<i>Acacia phasmodes</i>	Phantom wattle												
<i>Acacia pravissima</i>	Oven's wattle												
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden wattle												
<i>Acacia rubida</i>	Red stem wattle												
<i>Acacia triptera</i>	Spurwingwattle												
<i>Acacia ulicifolia</i>	Juniper wattle												
<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Hedge wattle												

Lastly, another aspect which is not often written about is the development of the flower buds and how they too can provide interest over a very long period. The photo on the left, of *Acacia pravissima* was taken in mid-April, however the actual flowering period is not until spring.



SOME PICS FROM THE OFF-GRID LIVING FESTIVAL

CHILTERN 6TH & 7TH APRIL





**SOME PICS FROM THE OPEN GARDEN &
LAUNCH OF GARDENS FOR WILDLIFE
ON 21ST APRIL**







APS Wangaratta now has its very own Facebook Page.

We look forward to reaching a broader audience with social media. Our facebook page is public to anyone searching to find out information about APS Wangaratta Inc online. We will keep it up-to-date with current information by sharing events, articles and posts from other APS clubs and the like. Please like and share with other facebook users. <https://www.facebook.com/apswangaratta/>

Our profile picture is the grass tree logo and the current cover page image is a tray of propagated plants. We are on the hunt for a **cover page image** that best represents the area. If you have an image of a plant/plants in a landscape format, we'd love to use it with your permission.

If you have **photos or articles** you'd like to share please send them to Isabel via email isabelninayoung@gmail.com or tag the Facebook page in comments and she will share on the page.

Your **Privacy** is our concern: addresses and phone numbers will not be shared on this public FB page. A photo consent form is now available for members to fill out, please let us know if you DO NOT want your image shared and you do not want to be photographed at events, meetings, around the specimen table and on garden tours.

Please return signed consent form to our secretary Pina via email apswangaratta1@gmail.com This form will also be available at club meetings and outings for your convenience.

APS VICTORIA WEBSITE

The Website of APS Victoria is a terrific resource for members and the general public. Much of the website material is publicly available.

There is also a Members Only section. This gives you access to the seed bank, event planning aids, rules and regulations, "Growing Australian Magazine" etc.

There used to be a password to access this area. The system has now become more secure, and you will need to use the email address you used when you signed up as a member of APS Wangaratta & APS Victoria, and your Membership Number. You will also find your Membership Number on the front of the yellow mailing envelope in which you received your "Growing Australian" magazine.



Australian Plants Society Wangaratta

Facebook Photo Consent Form

As APS Wangaratta venture into the world of social media, we would like to take this opportunity to ask for your consent to use images of you taken at events, meetings, around the specimen table and on garden tours.

- **Please select your preferred option and enter your name**

.....

By submitting this form I consent to APS Wangaratta Inc. using my image on social media posts and in their newsletter.

Or

By submitting this form I do not consent to APS Wangaratta Inc. using my image on social media posts and in their newsletter.

- **Date**.....
- **Signature**

Your 2023/2024 Committee:

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Gillian Anderson 0411 111 830 pdga280@bigpond.com

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Birds, Flora & Nesting Box at 475 Shanley Street, Wangaratta South
Photos by Pina.

