

Australian Plants Society Wangaratta Inc. August 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. We have had a mid-winter break and will recommence on Thursday evening August 22nd. This will also be our **AGM** and the traditional Silent Auction. Details on page 7.

Outings - Visits to local gardens and places of natural beauty are organised on a Saturday or Sunday, usually following the monthly meetings. Our next outing will be on Saturday August 24th to help design a new garden. Details on pages 10 & 11. The date of the outing in October has been brought forward to Sunday October 20th.

Market stalls– are held several times a year. We held a most successful Wattle Day exhibit and stall at the Wangaratta Farmers Market on 10th August. Report on pages 3 – 6.

Propagation Days -- are held on selected Saturdays in the warmer months. The next propagation day will be held on Saturday December 7th.

Visitors are always welcome.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
AUGUST 2024		
Thursday August 22 nd	Club Meeting. AGM & Silent Auction	7pm. Freemasons Hall. Appin St. including Election of Committee for 2024/25 DETAILS ON PAGES 7 & 8
Saturday August 24 th	Outing.	Outing to Isabel Young's home, including helping to plan the design of her garden. DETAILS ON PAGES 10 & 11.
SEPTEMBER 2024		
Wednesday	Committee meeting	5pm Freemasons Hall Meeting Room. DATE TO BE CONFIRMED
Thursday, September 26 th	Club meeting.	Grand Spring Spectacular Display Table. 7pm. Freemasons Hall, Appin St.
Saturday 28 th September	Outing.	Shepparton Botanic Garden. Meet for lunch in the Car park. BYO Everything, including folding chair.
OCTOBER 2024		
Thursday 24 th October	Club Meeting	Details to be confirmed.
Sunday 20 th October	Field Trip	Whorouly & Taylors Gap [near Myrtleford] Leader Michael O'Sullivan NOTE CHANGE OF DATE
NOVEMBER 2024		
November 23 rd & 24 th	Hosting APS Victoria quarterly Weekend	Including Committee of Management Meeting & AGM, Dinner, Outings and Guest Speaker. Details to come.
DECEMBER 2024		
Saturday December 7 th	Propagating Day and Christmas Breakup lunch	From 9.00am to after lunch. @ 475 Shanley St, Wangaratta South.
JANUARY 2025 - in recess.		
FEBRUARY 2025		
Saturday February 8 th	Propagation Day & Committee meeting	Propagating from 9.00am. Committee meeting following lunch.

August 10th

WATTLE DAY CELEBRATION



Wattle Day is traditionally celebrated on 1st September. The Wangaratta Farmers Market is an ideal location for our club to join in the annual celebration. The market is held on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Last year this worked well for many of our lovely Acacias to be in full bloom and suitable for display on our stall.



This year -alas -- the weather has been cold and rainy, and we were hard pressed to find a great variety of wattles in full bloom. As I write this, just one week later, there are Acacia blooms

bursting out all over.

Despite our misgivings of the fallback position of gathering blooms of Cootamundra and Mt Morgan wattles [both declared weeds for our area], but in their full and golden glory, they served as examples of what not to plant. Of course we did not distribute any seed of these beguiling but unwanted lovelies.



On Saturday August the 10th we were up bright and early and set up our stall in prime position at the Wangaratta Farmers Market. Our site was front and centre on the lawns of Holy Trinity cathedral. The coordinator of the Farmers Market, Eleanor, was waiting to greet us and assist us in setting up our stall. There was plenty of room under two gazebos for our various displays.



From 8:00am onwards there was a steady stream of interested folk. We distributed free wattle seed with demonstrations and growing instructions. Wattle Day Celebration badges,

creatively designed by Janice Jones and put together on site with fresh sprays of wattle blossom were popular. By the end of the morning the customers and market store holders around the area were awash with wattle day badges proudly displayed on many lapels and jackets. There were other give-aways --- one free plant per customer of Australian plants in forestry tubes drew interest. Approx. 120 plants found new homes . Each free



packet of wattle seed had specifications of soil type, anticipated size and care instructions. This was useful in determining

which species would be more suitable for local conditions. We were kept busy with one-on-one discussions about the best choice for each interested customer.

Our thanks to everyone who helped in preparing for and working on the stall for Wattle Day . Janice & Glynn, Linda, Michael & Carole, Therese, Isabel, Helen W. Jenny, Helen & John, & Bill Aitchison [ANPSA Acacia Study Group].

Species of seed distributed were:

Acacia

Acinacea,
boormanii,
brownii,
buxifolia,
calamifolia,

cardiophylla, chinchillensis, chrysocephala, dealbata, denticulosa,
drummondii ssp. drummondii, fimbriata, flexifolia, floribunda,
genistifolia, hetereochroa, howittii, idiomorpha, imbricata, implexa,
jibberdingensis, lasiocarpa var. sedifolia, lineata, melanoxylon,
pulchella, pulchella kamballup dwarf, pycnantha, retinodes,
spectabilis, triptera, varia var. parvifolia, verniciflua, & williamsonii.



Editor's note: We do have seed of most of these species still available. If you would like to grow any of these species, either for your own garden and for Wattle Day 2025, please contact Helen - helenvanriet@bigpond.com



HAYFEVER, ASTHMA AND WATTLE BLOSSOM

The issue of *Acacia* blooms causing hayfever and asthma was raised by a few customers. There has been much research about asthma and hayfever in general, and the Wattle Day Association has published a general article which is reproduced on Page 6.

.....Continued

Wattles rarely cause hayfever & asthma

Wattle pollen is rarely the cause of hayfever or asthma. The persistent myth that it does, dispelled long ago by Australian immunologists, has been perpetuated with the help of self-serving advertising by some antihistamine marketing companies. And yet whenever there is talk of National Wattle Day as an alternative to Australia 26 January, someone inevitably comments about wattles and sneezing, hayfever and grabbing the tissues.

Research shows that it is more likely to be the fine, wind-blown pollen introduced grasses (*Lolium* species) in your lawn, or the pasture planted by farmers as a nutritious feed for livestock that is the problem. But in all fairness it is difficult to see the almost invisible pollen that these grasses produce in vast quantity before you breathe it in. Much more obvious is the blooming wattles trying to attract insects and birds to carry their heavy insect-pollinated to another flower, blossom or plant.

Never-the-less this myth could well be negatively affecting people's health because they are avoiding the wrong plants. It is also damaging to the environment as people who believe they are protecting their own health remove native *Acacia* trees and shrubs. They should be planting them instead to create low allergy gardens.

According to ASCIA – the peak professional body of Allergists and Clinical Immunologists in Australia and New Zealand. For example, ASCIA states (see <https://www.allergy.org.au/patients/allergic-rhinitis-hay-fever-and-sinusitis/pollen-allergy>) that:

“Trees usually pollinate in late winter and early spring...Wattle trees are frequently blamed for early spring symptoms but tests rarely confirm that Wattle pollen is the cause. There are many species of *Casuarina* or Australian Oak trees, which produce pollen throughout the year and may cause allergic rhinitis symptoms at any time of the year.

The National Asthma Council of Australia also advises on its website ([Pollen triggers my asthma and allergies – National Asthma Council Australia](#)) :

Problem pollen usually comes from imported grasses, weeds and trees, which are wind pollinated.

Australian native plants are usually not the culprit, although there are exceptions, such as cypress pine.

Allergies are not usually triggered by highly flowered plants as they produce less pollen (which is transported by bees) than wind pollinated plants.

So it's not the wattles that you should worry about when celebrating any national day.

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Please consider writing an article or sending some interesting photos to me. Short or long, every contribution adds to this Newsletter's interest and relevance to our Club. Our Newsletter belongs to all of us! Please give me a ring or text or email if you would like to discuss an idea. Thank you all! helenvanriet@bigpond.com 04 0102 1448

NEXT MEETING -- SILENT AUCTION & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 22nd AUGUST @ 7pm.

Our August APS meeting will include

THE AGM

Our AGM does not take any more time than is necessary. In the unlikely event that any positions on our committee do not have a nomination, we DO NOT put anyone 'on the spot' or accept nominations 'from the floor', unless the nominee has already agreed to that nomination.

LUCKY NUMBER SILENT AUCTION. To round out the evening_ and by popular demand, our fourth HYBRID 'SILENT LUCKY NUMBER AUCTION' will keep us all on our toes.

How it will work.....

We will have purchased approximately 30 lovely Australian plants from various nurseries on which to try your luck. Each plant will have a receptacle into which identifying numbered voting slips for the corresponding plant may be placed. Each person will be registered and given an identifying number. You will receive 20 voting slips with your identification number and space to write how much you would be willing to pay for a particular plant. You will be invited to place each of your 20 slips in the corresponding receptacles beside each plant you would like to purchase. We suggest that your nominated amount could be anything from \$1 upwards. There may be just a few plants that you really want to win. You could put quite a few of your voting slips in one bucket, or not be fussed, and distribute your voting slips amongst the 30 buckets in any way you wish.

Lots will be drawn from the accumulated voting slips for each plant. The lucky winner gets to purchase the plant for the amount they have nominated on their slip. All payments will be collected at the conclusion of the silent auction, either by cash or you can make a direct deposit to the APS Wangaratta account:

To: Bendigo Bank
 Account Name: Australian Plants Society Wangaratta
 BSB: 633000 Account Number 122 784 283
 Please add your identity - Surname & 'Silent Auction'

To ensure that everyone gets an equal chance, once a member has drawn a winner, they will not be included in subsequent draws until everyone who has made a bid has drawn a winner. There will also be consolation prizes for those who don't draw a winner. And swapping of plants among ourselves is always an option.

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY WANGARATTA INC.
NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2024 – 2025

POSITION - (Please circle) President Vice President Secretary Treasurer Membership Officer Newsletter Editor APS Victoria Representative Committee Member
--

I nominate (Name of person being nominated)

Name & signature of proposer

.....

Name & signature of Seconder

.....

Signature of person being nominated Date

Nomination forms to be returned to the Secretary before 7pm on 22/8/24.

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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

It is that time of year again! Except for new members who joined since the start of 2024 , everyone's membership with APS Vic and APS Wangaratta runs out at the end of June. So you need to renew for 2024-2025 to remain an active member.

This year ***all renewals must be done online through the APS Victoria website.***

Details are as follows:

- Go to apsvic.org.au/login, fill in your username (email address), then password (membership number which is on the front of the Growing Australian envelope) and login via 'captcha'. This takes you to your membership page.
- Your name/s, address, phone number, email address will already be filled in and can be altered if need be.
- Select Single or Household, tick if you want *Australian Plants*, check that Wangaratta is selected as your district group with correct type (single, household)
- Select payment method. The easiest method to use is a credit or debit card, but payment can also be made by bank transfer. The bank transfer option needs to be followed up by paying into the APS Vic bank.
- If you use a credit/debit card for payment a confirmation screen will appear after a minute or so, and a receipt will be emailed to you
- There is no logout button so I suggest closing your browser once you have the confirmation screen

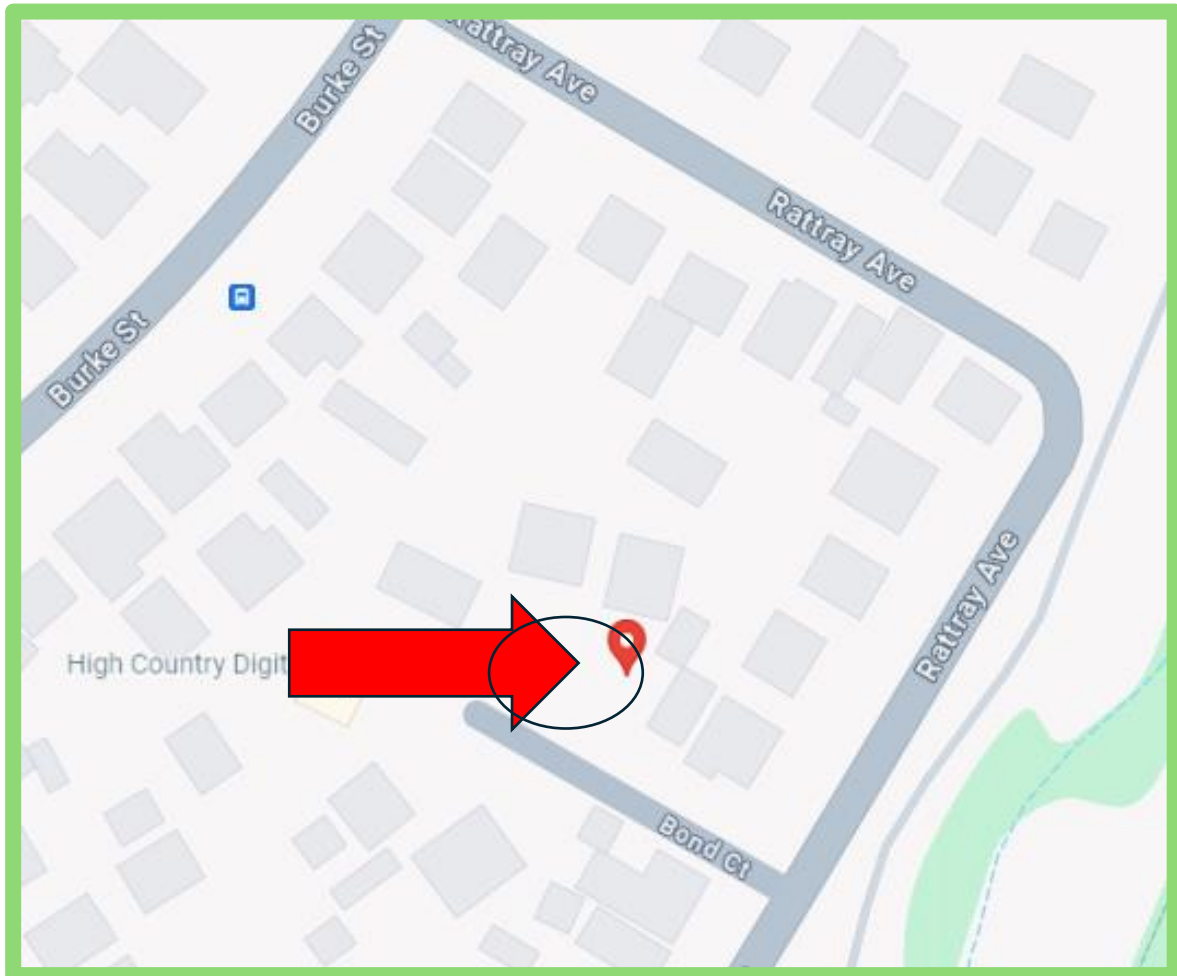
Do not send your membership renewal money to APS Wangaratta _____. All membership money (both APS Vic and District group membership) goes to APS Vic and then they send the Wangaratta portion back to us.

If you have any questions please get in touch. I can be reached by email (wangarattamemberships@apsvic.org.au) or phone (0439 608 130).

Thanks in advance,

Linda

OUTING
SATURDAY 24TH AUGUST
TO THE HOME AND DEVELOPING GARDEN OF
Isobel, Adam, Edie and Eloise Young
2 Bond Court, Yarrunga.



TIME: 10.30am onwards, including lunch.

PARKING: There is plenty of parking on Rattray Avenue if Bond Court is full.

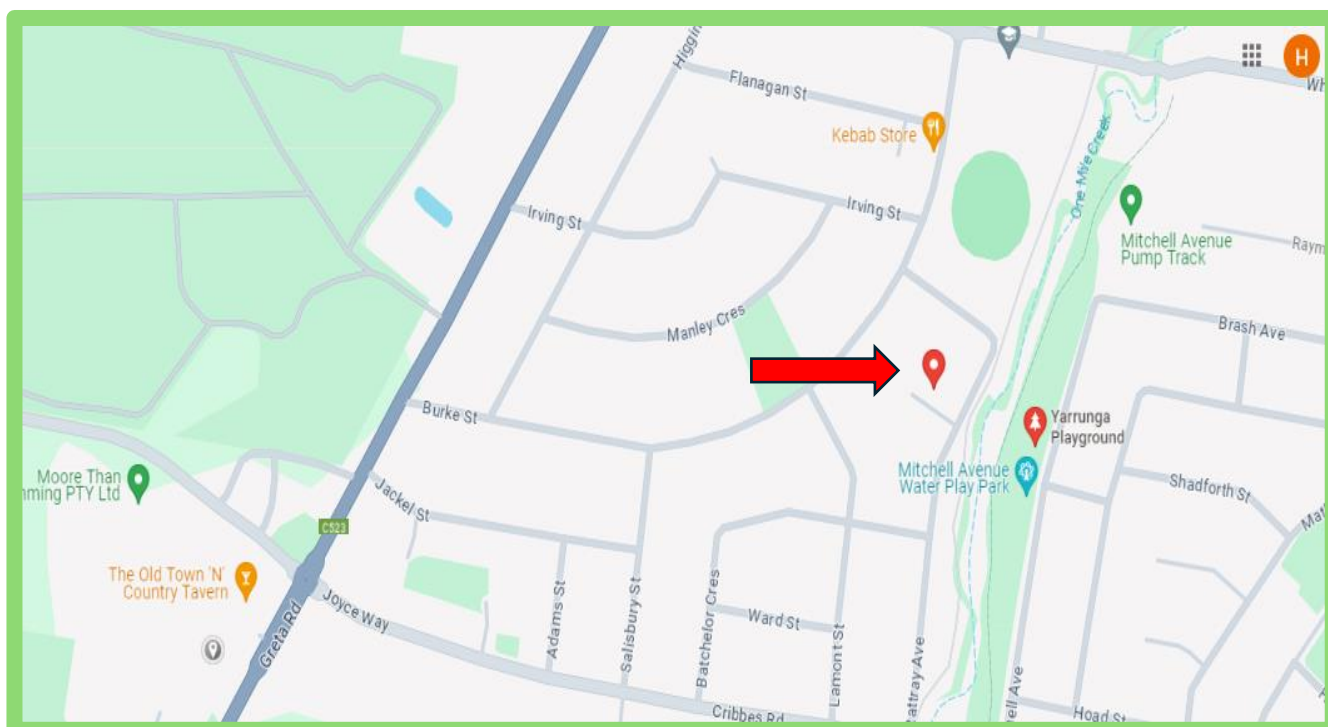
WHAT TO BRING: A folding chair.

CATERING: Isobel will be providing baked scones for morning tea, and a pot of soup for lunch. Tea and coffee will be supplied. Optional -- morning tea to share and your own lunch.

CONTINUED

DETAILS: Isobel, Adam, Edie and Eloise are looking forward to our visit to help design their new Australian Plants garden. On arrival, please come down the driveway to the backyard. Bring your questions, ideas, passion and experience. Come to learn and enjoy the delights of talking “Aussie Plants”.

LOCALITY MAP



Your 2023/2024 Committee:

President: John Van Riet 04 2812 9007 helenvanriet@bigpond.com

Secretary: Pina Tiso 0409 602 885 apswangaratta1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Joanne Diver 0412 985 501 divers@aapt.net.au

Membership Officer: Linda Huzzey 0439 608 130 huzzey@westnet.com.au

Newsletter Editor: Helen van Riet 0401 021 448 helenvanriet@bigpond.com

APS Vic. Rep. & Specimen Table: Therese Graham 0407 563 614 therese238@westnet.com.au

Non-official Roles:

Janice Jones 0427 319 943 wang.jones@bigpond.com

Rosemary Buchanan (Supper Roster) 0428 998 336 rosie_buchanan@hotmail.com

Gillian Anderson 0411 111 830 pdga280@bigpond.com

Jenny Davidson 0418 169 917 jennylid.jd@gmail.com

SHOWS, CONFERENCES, PLANT SALES AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST CONTRIBUTED BY NICKY ZANEN

PLEASE CHECK APS VICTORIAN WEBSITE FOR CANCELLATIONS

2024

25 August 2024, Sunday at 3.00 pm, Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitor Centre.

Dr Ryan Phillips from La Trobe University will explore the “*Beguiling and the warty: the pollination of sexually deceptive orchids*”. While orchids represent some of the most famous Australian wildflowers, what is less well known is that Australia is the epicenter of diversity for orchids pollinated by sexual deception of male insects. These remarkable flowers attract specific pollinators by mimicking the chemical and sometimes morphological cues of female insects. In this talk Dr Phillips will reveal which Australian orchid genera use sexual deception and present recent research demonstrating some of the adaptations involved. He will explore how these adaptations help us understand the origins of the vast array of floral forms in Caladenia (the spider orchids). Contact Alex English by email urimbirra.cooperative@gmail.com or call Nicky on 0401975191.

Blackburn Lake Sanctuary Visitor Centre is 95 Central Road, Blackburn, 3130.

5 September 2024 – Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar. Goroke. “Pests, Partnerships and People Power.”

7 September 2024 – APS Cardinia Regional Annual Plant Sale, Akoonah Park, Berwick from 8 am to 4 pm.

7 September 2024 – APS Mitchell Expo and Plant Sale, Wallan Multipurpose Centre, Bentinck Street, Wallan.

14 & 15 September 2024 APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am - 3pm.

21 & 22 September 2024 – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 40th Anniversary. Special feature Edible Australian Native Plants. Speakers scheduled each day are Clarence Slockee, Julie Weatherhead and Neil Marriott. 9 am to 4 pm, \$5 entry.

21 & 22 September 2024 – 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.

21 September till 8 October 2024 - Special Banksia Exhibition at Karwarra, featuring over 60 paintings by Ian Wallace, Juet Sculptures and plant display by Kurunga Native Nursery. Karwarra Australian Native Botanic Gardens, 1190 - 1192 Mount Dandenong Tourist Road, Kalorama. 10 am to 4 pm week days, 1 - 4 pm weekends.

28 & 29 September 2024 – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory Christian College, Kairn Road, Strathdale, Bendigo. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. \$5 entry, children free. Specialist native plant nurseries, books, garden accessories and more.

30 September to 4 October, 2024 – ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference in Melbourne hosted by APS Victoria. Visit <https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/>.

2 October 2024 - 3.30 pm. AJ Swaby Address by Phillip Johnson - “Connected Through Nature”. As part of the ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference, this session is open to the public, free of charge, at The Round, Nunawading. Phillip Johnson is a Landscape Designer and 2013 Gold and Best in Show winner at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London. “*By healing our environment, we heal ourselves at the same time*”. Registrations are required via the website <https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/>

5 October 2024 – Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase. Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca.

12 & 13 October 2024 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au

Continued

19 October 2024. – APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show, Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Gillies Street, Ballarat. (Next to the Conservatory). 10am to 4pm. Native Plants for sale.

23 & 24 November 2024 – APS Wangaratta host APS Victoria Quarterly Weekend - Early Summer in 'The Warbies'. Committee of Management meeting in the Uniting Church Hall, Central Wangaratta and AGM in Old Town and Country Tavern on Greta Road.

2025

22 & 23 March 2025 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au

24 to 30 March 2025 – Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS), Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building. Website: <https://melbflowershow.com.au>.

12 April 2025 - APS Yarra Yarra Plant & Book Sale.

2 & 3 August 2025 15th FJC Rogers Seminar 2025 on Epacridaceae hosted by APS Mornington Peninsula in the Mornington Secondary College.

16 to 24 August 2025 - Banksia Week. Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. Includes plant sales, plant walks, exhibitions and displays in the auditorium.

13 to 14 September 2025 - APS Yarra Yarra Plants Expo.

11 & 12 October 2025 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au

24 to 28 August 2026 ANPSA 2026 Biennial Conference, in Alice Springs, organised by APS SA and APS Alice Springs. The conference theme is “Amazing Arid Australia”.

**CHECK OUT OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE!**



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Australian Plants Society Wangaratta Inc.

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Meetings are held in the Masonic Lodge Hall
101 Appin Street, Wangaratta
7pm on 4th Thursday of months February to November, except for the month of July.