



**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)**  
**Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter**  
**FEBRUARY 2024 No 506**

*Correa reflexa* 'Grannys Grave'

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 Kevin Sparrow at  
[ksparrow93@gmail.com](mailto:ksparrow93@gmail.com)  
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New Edition  
 Out soon



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**On Eastern Maar Country**

**EDITORIAL**

**Hello members,**

Looks like summer has finally arrived this week, our best wishes to all those affected by the fires in the Grampians, we are thinking of you.

**Vale Ken Arthur.** Long term members will remember our former member, Ken Arthur who passed away this week. He was actively involved in our groups projects over many years, particularly our flower shows. He and wife Gwen, ran a native nursery for many years at Illowa and sold many plants at our shows raising lots of money for our group in the process. We pass on our condolences to Gwen, daughter Jacqui and family. His funeral is next Thursday 22nd 2.00pm

Dave and Linda Handscombe are pleased to announce the safe arrival of their **new grand daughter**, Baby Elowen Avery Hunt born on 10th of January to Millie Handscombe and Matt Hunt at Warrnambool Hospital - 8lb 11oz. Photo on page 2 where she is seen wearing an eco dyed singlet made by her Aunty Bron. Welcome to the Grandies Club, Dave and Linda.

**On Sunday 25th February**, Dave and Linda Handscombe will be conducting free Propagation Sessions at their home at 7 Settlers Lane, Illowa from 9.30 - 12.00. This is your opportunity to learn from experts how to propagate your own plants. Come along and have a look at their garden at the same time. See page 3 for more details.

This month, **our speaker** will be our own, Dave Handscombe who will be speaking on his and Linda's recent trip to the Blue Mountains. Hope to catch up on Friday 23rd Cheers, Kevin

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**We acknowledge the Eastern Maar people as the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay our respects to their elders past and present.**

**Next Members Activity: Friday 23rd February 8.00pm at Mozart Hall - speaker Dave Handscombe - Blue Mountains.**

*Members Activities*

*Elowen Avery Hunt born on 10th January.*

**February 23rd 8.00pm:** David and Linda - Blue Mountains.

**February 25th 9.30 - 12.00.** Propagation Sessions at 7 Settlers Lane Illowa.

**February 27th 2.00pm:** No Committee Meeting this month.

**March 22nd 8.00pm:** Members Night at Mozart Hall speaker is Lynsey Poore talking about the Chelsea Flower Show.

**March 25th 2.00pm:** Committee Meeting at Sparrows - 35 Swan Street.

**April 26th 8.00pm:** Members Night at Mozart Hall - speaker John Sherwood - Ningaloo.

**April 29th 2.00pm** - Committee Meeting TBA

**May 25th 8.00pm: AGM night.** Speaker TBA



**Please submit your articles for the newsletter by the end of the second week of the month**

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**Newsletter Editor:** Kevin Sparrow, 35 Swan Street, Warrnambool. Phone: 55626217 Email: ksparrow93@gmail.com

**Public Officer:** John Sherwood. **APS Rep:** Vacant **Group Historian:** Joyce Sparrow. **Supper:** Liz Halls.

**Other Committee Members:** Dorothy Mattner, Michael Mattner, Linda Handscombe, Ross Dawson.

**The APS Warrnambool & District holds meetings on the 4th Friday of each month at the Mozart Hall Warrnambool at 8pm.**

APS Warrnambool & District is a District Group of the Australian Plants Society (Vic)

All members are required to also be a member of APS Vic.

Australian Plants Society - Warrnambool and District

## PROPAGATION SESSION

**SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**  
9.30-12.00

**Dave and Linda Handscombe**  
7 Settlers Lane Illowa  
0429866862

[above the cemetery, mosaic letterbox]

**Morning tea provided**

[**byo** lunch if you want to stay on and look at the garden]

**Learn how to propagate your own plants**  
by seed, cuttings and division

**All welcome**



**Name:** *Banksia burdettii* - Burdett's Banksia

**Plant family:** Proteaceae.

**Grows** in well-drained soil in full sun.

**Grows** in Western Australia to a height of 2 - 4 m high by 2 m wide, north-west of Perth in the Geraldton Sandplains, Jarrah Forest, Swan Coastal Plain flowering from January through to May.

We planted ours more than 25 years ago next to our letterbox, its is still going strong. Each year the flowers are pruned off as they finish up, this promotes bushiness and stops it getting too tall. Or you can use them as cut flowers, they last a long time in a vase.

## Gardens For Wildlife - Free Garden Tour of Swan Reserve Gardens by Kevin Sparrow



Last Saturday, 38 people came along to the information Session and Garden Tour held at Swan Reserve Gardens in Warrnambool. People were able to register their interest in having their garden assessed by Warrnambool City Council's, Gardens for Wildlife team. The program has been slowly developed by the team at WCC now under the leadership of Kristy Roche. Garden advisors have been trained and been practicing over recent times and we are almost ready to begin visiting Warrnambool gardens. We are also looking for people to train as Garden Advisors - its easy and you are always teamed up with a more experienced advisor. Gardens are visited, recommendations made and a written report provided to the property owner. This includes a list of suitable plants that would bring the birds and animals into the garden. Interested people can contact council through WCC web site at: <https://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/gardens-wildlife>

## *Visit To Griffith Island - Port Fairy by Kevin Sparrow*

On Friday 19th January, 21 members travelled over to Port Fairy to attend a guided walk on Griffith Island to view the arrival of the Shearwater birds. We were met on site by Friends of Griffith Island members, Mike and Sandra Herbert who gave us a detailed talk about the birds and their life cycle and how they migrate from their breeding grounds at Griffith Island to fly rapidly north to their wintering grounds around the Aleutian Islands in the north Pacific. See more details on pages 3 and 4.

Most of us elected to buy some fish and chips before the walk so we were well prepared by the time 8.00 pm came around for our walk to the Lighthouse where we took the obligatory photo. We then walked on to



the viewing area just on dark eagerly awaiting the arrival of the birds that had been feeding all day on the ocean. Almost on cue, the birds started arriving, flying over our heads in the darkness. The birds are guided by the moon back to their nests in the ground where their mate and offspring are eagerly awaiting. Thank you to Mike and Sandra, it was an amazing night greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

## Visit To Griffith Island - Port Fairy

### THE REMARKABLE MUTTON BIRD

The bird commonly called the "Mutton Bird" is the Short-tailed Shearwater (*Ardenna tenuirostris*).

The Short-tailed Shearwater, is a member of a group of 60 medium to large seabirds in the family Procellariidae. This family includes species such as petrels, albatross and prions. All members of the family have tube-like nostrils on the top of their upper beak and are believed to be one of the few bird families with a well-developed sense of smell. Almost all breed in burrows and, like the albatrosses, are truly impressive oceanic fliers. It was given the name mutton bird by early settlers who utilised its fatty flesh for food and as an oil source. Today the bird is totally protected in Australia, although limited harvesting of the Shearwaters occurs on some Bass Strait islands.

The bird may be unspectacular in appearance, having a short tail with blackish brown feathers, but has some remarkable characteristics, including an annual migration around the Pacific Ocean, and an uncannily regular life cycle.

Adult Shearwaters on average weigh 550 grams with a wing span of 1 metre. Their beak is slender with a hook at the end to assist in catching their prey, as they skim along the surface of the water.



They are excellent swimmers, diving up to ten metres in search of prey such as krill, squid and small fish. The Short-tailed Shearwater is the only variety of petrel whose breeding grounds lie solely in Australia. Almost all colonies nest on islands off south east Australia, concentrated around Bass Strait. The birds occur in very large numbers, perhaps being Australia's most abundant bird. The colony at Griffiths Island alone totals between ten and twenty thousand individuals.

### LIFECYCLE

from observations of Miss G. Bowler: 1963 to 1973

Event	Usual date	Range
Arrival	22nd September	19th to 25th September
Departure after mating	12th November	9th to 13th November
"Honeymoon" at sea usually 13 days (from 11 to 15 days)		
Return for egg laying	25th November	22nd to 26th November
Adults depart	16th April	11th to 20th April
Young depart	3rd May	2nd to 9th May

Each year the bulk of the colony (the breeding age birds) return to the nesting grounds on almost the same day. Over a decade of observation, the Port Fairy birds returned within three days of the 22nd of September each year. Individuals return to the same nest burrow they occupied the previous year and generally mate with the same partner throughout their breeding life.

For the following few weeks, nest burrows are dug or cleared out. These burrows are tunnels about one metre long dug in soft sand, close under the surface. This results in nests difficult to avoid and easily crushed by walkers. Walkers should always keep to the official paths around the island to avoid nest damage.

### MATING

Mating occurs in early November, with the entire population then flying off to sea for two weeks. This is known as the "honeymoon flight".

Eggs are laid immediately on return which is about the 25th of November. Each pair has one oval egg, similar in size to a domestic hen egg.

The male and female birds share the duty of incubation, with the male spending the first 12 to 14 days on the egg, followed by the female for 10 to 13 days. This alternating duty continues until the egg hatches about mid-January.

Two or three days after hatching, the chick is left during the day while the parents forage at sea for food, which is regurgitated to the youngster at night.

Progressively the periods between feeds increases until the chick can wait up to two weeks between meals. Parent birds can forage up to 1,500 kilometres from the nest during this period.

Meanwhile the chick gains weight rapidly and for a period becomes heavier than the adult birds.

In mid-April the adult birds begin their Pacific migration, leaving the young behind.

Hunger begins to bring chicks from the nest at night, until they eventually set off after the adults. Somehow they find the migratory route without the guidance of the older birds.

Mortality is high in the first year, with only about half of those which leave the nest surviving.

The non-breeding young birds follow a slightly later migratory timetable.

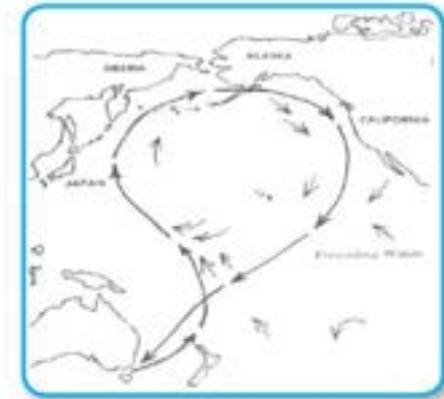
Reproductive maturity is attained after about 5 years of age.

## Visit To Griffith Island - Port Fairy

### MIGRATION

After departing from the breeding grounds, the birds fly rapidly north to their wintering grounds around the Aleutian Islands and the Kamchatka Peninsula between Alaska and Siberia. This journey of about 15,000 kilometres, passing New Zealand and Japan, is completed in only two months. After resting up, the return journey begins, following the coast of North America to California, then south west across the Pacific. For most of their journey the birds are aided by prevailing winds, but on their final leg from the central Pacific the birds battle across

head winds, returning to their nesting grounds exhausted. From September to April the birds' return at dusk provides a spectacular sight. A viewing platform enables visitors to enjoy this experience with minimum disturbance to the birds. You can also watch birds return by standing quietly on the limestone pathway. As the birds return at nightfall all is eerily silent, save for the whirr of thousands of wings. However, as the birds settle, their calls soon develop as the hungry chick welcomes home its parents.



**Taken From 'Shearwater Mutton Bird Colony' - Friends of Griffith Island brochure.**



## Plant Profile By Dave Handscombe

**Species:** *Kennedia coccinea*

**Kennedia:** Named after John Kennedy, a London nurseryman who was one of the early cultivators of Australian plants.  
coccinea – From the Latin coccineus meaning scarlet.

**Common Name:** Coral Vine.

**Family:** Fabaceae

There are 3 sub species of *Kennedia coccinea*:  
*Kennedia coccinea* subs *calcaria*  
*Kennedia coccinea* subs *coccinea*  
*Kennedia coccinea* subs *esotera*

**Dimensions:** Height: up to 4 metres, width up to 4 metres.

There is 1 cultivar registered on the ACRA site *Kennedia coccinea* 'KencoralGL', and there is 1 Plant Breeders Right current for *Kennedia coccinea* 'KencoralGL'.

**Distribution:** North of Perth to Jurien Bay and inland to Coorow. South of Perth within 150km from the coast to Cape Arid.

*Kennedia coccinea* grows in acid to neutral sandy or gravelly soils but will tolerate loams and clay loams as long as drainage is good. It is primarily a ground cover but will climb into surrounding vegetation given the opportunity. It thrives in full sun as long as there is some protection for the root system. Tolerant of light frosts *Kennedia coccinea* is a fast grower and is one of the pioneer plants in areas suffering from some form of disturbance. Its fast growth comes at the expense of longevity and plants may only last for 5 or so years. Judicious pruning in the early years may help extend the life of the plant. Propagate from scarified seed or cuttings of firm young growth.





*Plant Profile By Dave Handscombe*



*Plant Profile By Dave Handscombe*



**Photo Captions**

**Photo 1 - 2:** *Kennedia coccinea* climbing through established plants and a fallen tree .

**Photo 3:** *Kennedia coccinea* puts on quite a show with masses of flowers.

**Photo 4:** The red, pink and yellow flowers stand out .

**Photo 5-7:** Progressively closer views of the flowers

## *Shows, Conferences, Plant Sales and Other Items of Interest.*

### **IMPORTANT PLEASE CHECK APS VICTORIAN WEBSITE FOR CANCELLATIONS**

**20 to 24 March 2024** – Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS), Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building. Website: <https://melbflowershow.com.au>.

**23 & 24 March 2024** - 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](http://rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au)

**6 & 7 April 2024** – APS Wangaratta take part in Off-Grid Living Festival & Campout, Chiltern Racecourse & Recreation Reserve, NE Victoria. Providing information about Australian plants – growing, maintenance, suitability and also selling plants which we have propagated ourselves.

**13 April 2024** – APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks. 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

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

**27 April 2024** – APS Mornington Australian Native Plant Sale, Josephine's Lawn Area, The Briars, Nepean Highway, Mt Martha. No dogs. 10 am to 3.30 pm. Free talks on propagating plants, pruning and maintenance, book sales and kids corner.

**Early May 2024** – APS Victoria Committee of Management Meeting. To be advised.

**11 May 2024** – APS Melton Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale, at St Andrews Uniting Church, Bacchus Marsh, 9 am to 1 pm. For more details from David Pye, Ph 0417 289 369.

**27 and 28 July 2024** – APS Bendigo host COM and full weekend of activities.

**5 September 2024** – Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar. Further details to follow.

**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 - 4pm

**21 & 22 September 2024** – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

## *Shows, Conferences, Plant Sales and Other Items of Interest.*

**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.

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



**5 October 2024** – Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase. Details to follow.

**19 & 20 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](http://rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au)

**November 2024** – APS Wangaratta host APS Victoria Committee of Management meeting and AGM. Details to follow.

**2025 15<sup>th</sup> FJC Rogers Seminar 2025** on Epacridaceae hosted by APS Mornington Peninsula.

**2026 ANPSA 2026 Biennial Conference**, planned to be held in Alice Springs.

