



Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants Inc

Registered No: A001049IR

WGAP PO Box 533, Horsham. 3402 Email: wimmera@apsvic.org.au

August-September October 2023 Newsletter

2023 events and dates for the diary

Meetings are usually held at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of the month, and at the CWA Hall Horsham, with at least one meeting in Warracknabeal. Newsletter updates may need to be sent out if arrangements or the program changes.

PROGRAM for 2023

It is possible that the following events may be altered or cancelled. Emails of phone messages will be used for updates so please check these before an event, but please also heed the most recent Victorian Government rules.

Thursday 3 August, CWA Hall - Topic: *Royal Australian Botanic Garden Cranbourne*

Speaker: Jill Burness, landscape architect. **Plants:** Jeanne Raleigh. **Supper:** Nat Lewis.

Saturday 9 September - Excursion to Snape Reserve

Leader: Mary Argall.

Leave Horsham Library Carpark 9:15am. For those who live closer to Dimboola please arrive at **Snape Reserve 10am. BYO lunch, morning/afternoon tea.**



We will require **4x4 wheel drive vehicles**. For those who haven't a 4x4 we will **car pool** with those who have.

**Saturday 7 October -
Excursion to Duffholme/
Nurcoung Region**

Leaders: Harvey Champness
and Rae Decker.

Meet at the Horsham Library Carpark at **9:00am**. BYO morning/afternoon tea and lunch.

Approximate outline of the day's excursion:

9.00am Meet in Horsham Library carpark – carpooling if required.

9.30am Morning Tea at Natimuk (alternative meeting place)

10.15am Arrive Duffholme (Jane Duff Highway Park on the Natimuk/Goroke Road) site orientation and nature walk

12.30pm Lunch at Mitre

1.30pm Arrive Habitat 141 (Greening Australia) site at Nurcoung – inspection of site and explanation of project

3.00pm Depart Nurcoung for Horsham

Fri/Sat/Sun 3,4,5 November –

Visit to Warrnambool APS Group

Please indicate to Mary 0417 059 312 or Graham 0491 091 115 if you are planning to go. Please organise your own accommodation.

Program for the weekend will include visiting public and private gardens and some local bushland.

Christmas Breakup

Sunday 26 November.

More details on page 4.



One of the gardens which our group will be visiting.

APS Vic Membership renewal 2023/24

Renewal time is here and current memberships expire on 30 June 2023. Renewals will be via the APS Victoria online system this year. The system is now operational for 2023/2024 renewals and new enrolments at: <https://apsvic.org.au/membership>.

Login on the APS Vic website using your email & membership number. Your membership number is printed on the front of your Growing Australian magazine envelope, so please retain this when it arrives in the post this month. There are some WGAP members whose APS Vic membership does not expire this year as they have paid for multiple years. If you are unsure please contact:

Alan Bedggood on 0429 827 200.

Organic Fertiliser from Neutrog

APS members can order Neutrog fertiliser online:

<https://shop.neutrog.com.au/>

Orders are delivered to Horsham for you to pick up. Usually at 29 Pryors Road Horsham, Anthea Garth. You will be notified if any changes to delivery place.

Orders Close for:

- **Spring** 2023 Thursday 17 August delivered early September.
- **Summer** 2023 Thursday 16 November, delivered early December.

Members of WGAP who are registered with Neutrog will receive an email as a reminder closer to the date/s.

If you do not receive an email and are unsure if you are registered or not, contact:

Alan Bedggood on 0429 827 200.

Thank You Gil

Gil Hopkins has resigned as Newsletter Editor as he wishes to concentrate on his own wellbeing and recovery of health.

Gil - your newsletters over some 13 years have contributed enormously to the smooth functioning of our club and our members opportunity to know what is coming up on our program. Alongside that you have put before us the wider horizons of national and state events so we can fit personal and group activities into our diaries.

Your newsletters are greatly looked forward to for their colourful and clear presentations of meeting, excursions, plant sales and displays. Many times I have referred to them to remind myself of what's coming up.

A huge thank you Gil, for your contribution to what we have come to love about our WGAP. I am sure you have received valuable support and advice from Liz. Thanks Liz.

Our prayers and kind wishes go with you as you follow your path back to good health.

Graham Goods

on behalf of all the members of Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants Inc.



Please Read - this will effect every WGAP member

Changes to the Membership and Constitution for Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants Inc.

Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants has always operated as an affiliated group of Australian Plant Society Victoria. It has been brought to our attention that our club has not always operated within the rules of the affiliation meaning that some of our members, who do not belong to APS Vic, are not covered by Public Liability Insurance.

At a WGAP committee meeting held on 22 June 2023, two options were discussed:

1. WGAP would need to purchase their own public liability to cover members who do not belong to APS Victoria. This would add considerable cost to the membership for WGAP and in particular those who are already members of APS Vic. They would be paying for the privilege of the cover of Public Liability twice. The committee felt that in some circumstances this would not be a fair option for all members.
2. That all members of WGAP would be required to become members of APS Vic. This would then mean that all our members would be covered for Public Liability and everyone would be paying the same membership fees which would probably be the cheaper option.

After some consideration the committee chose to go with Option 2. This will take time to for the changeover to take place.

Steps to be taken for the changeover are:

1. The WGAP constitution will need to be altered to accommodate the change of its operating year from a calendar to a financial year, that is from 1 July to the 30 June. This will then bring WGAP operating year in line with APS Vic.
2. The current WGAP constitution is out of date and requires several changes therefore the current Incorporations Victoria Model Rules have been downloaded and the committee is currently inserting the appropriate wording to suit our group.
3. For the new WGAP Constitution to be adopted by the club, a special general meeting will need to be called. The Christmas breakup is the proposed date for this meeting. Watch this space for further notice.
4. The committee moved that current memberships for WGAP will not expire until 30 June 2024 thus giving all WGAP members 18 months membership. This will then bring it in line with WGAP new constitution and APS Vic membership year. In future both memberships will need to be paid at the same time on the APS Vic Website. Not all members have the facility to pay their membership online. This is where the Treasurer/ Membership Officer will be able to assist and do this for you.

Speciman Table for June Meeting



Eremophila oppositifolia various forms. Bob Blake showing some of these to the audience.



Anthea Garth with two Eucalypts she is growing.

Gampians APS Campout - Little Desert, 22 - 25 October 2023

Invitation to WGAP to join in

The Grampians APS Group have invited members of WGAP to join them in a campout at Lake Charlegrak Caravan Park into the western block of the Little Desert.

Program:

Sunday 22 October 2023: Arrive anytime at the Lake Charlegrak Campground.

Monday 23 October 2023: Excursion into the western block of the Little Desert

Tuesday 24 October 2023: Excursion into the western block of the Little Desert. This will be a different route to Monday and vegetation types from the previous day.

Wednesday 25 October 2023: Departure at people's leisure.

Please click on this link for the registration form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeSm3IBBZg2snbskjBBO7ssUHGSTEqC-vlvmAgL03vEQocQ6g/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

NOTE: Please book your own accommodation at Lake Charlegrak Caravan Park. Powered and unpowered sites are available. No cabins. Website: <https://lakecharlegrark.com.au/>

Contact for accommodation bookings by phone 0428 866258 or email info@lakecharlegrark.com.au



Christmas Breakup

Sunday 26 November 2023

5pm: Garden of Gary Pilgrim and Ann Erskine
36 Penny Avenue, Horsham

6pm. Meal - Graham and Maree Goods
11 Harmer Court, Horsham

7pm: Proposed Special General Meeting
to adopt new WGAP Constitution

Wollemi Pine- *Wollemi nobilis*

At our Laharum vegetable swap recently, at the home of Prue and Will Pyke, we were delighted to see a wonderful *Wollemi nobilis* growing so well. It looked so healthy and was well over 6m tall. As you can see seed pods are forming. It was growing in a position sheltered from the hot afternoon Wimmera sun and in sandy soil. Some cuttings have been taken and it will be interesting to see if there are any successes.

Are there any members growing this ancient plant in the garden or in a pot? Let us know of your experiences. Jeanne and I tried one a few years ago but planted it in the wrong situation and it got too dry in the summer and died!

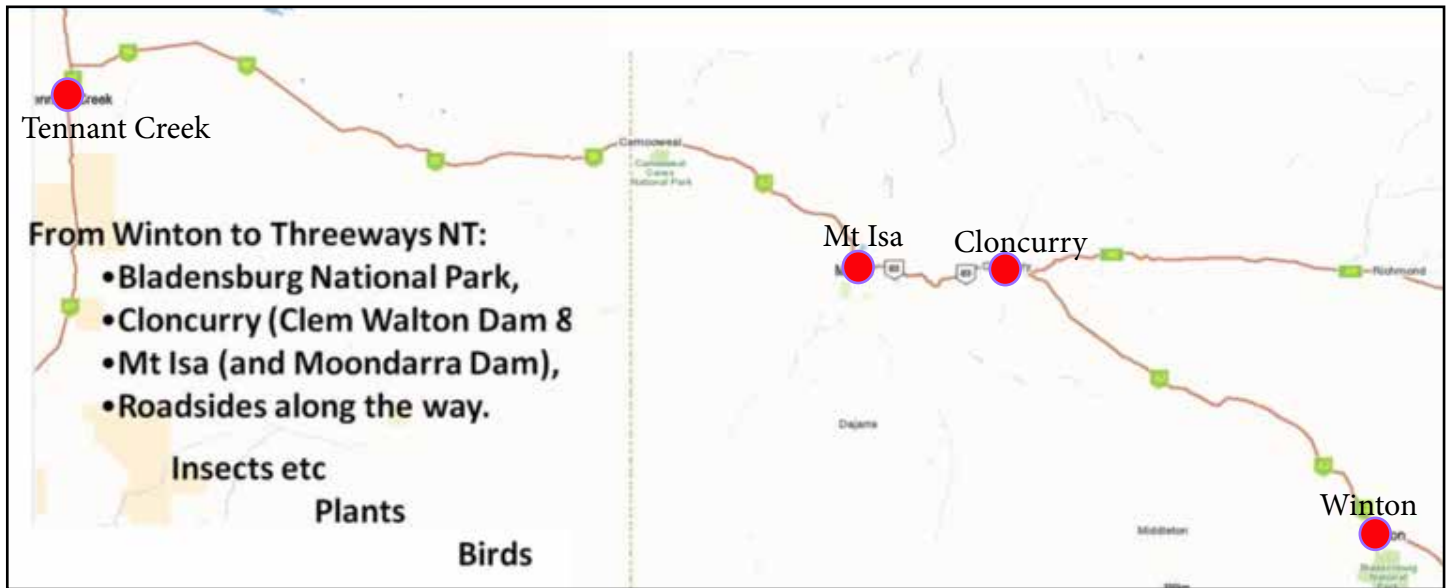
Royce Raleigh.



Wollemi Pine- *Wollemi nobilis* growing in Prue and Will Pyke's garden.

Outback Queensland

Presenter: Peter Rogers



Mary Donald.

Peter Rogers delivering his presentation *Outback Queensland*.

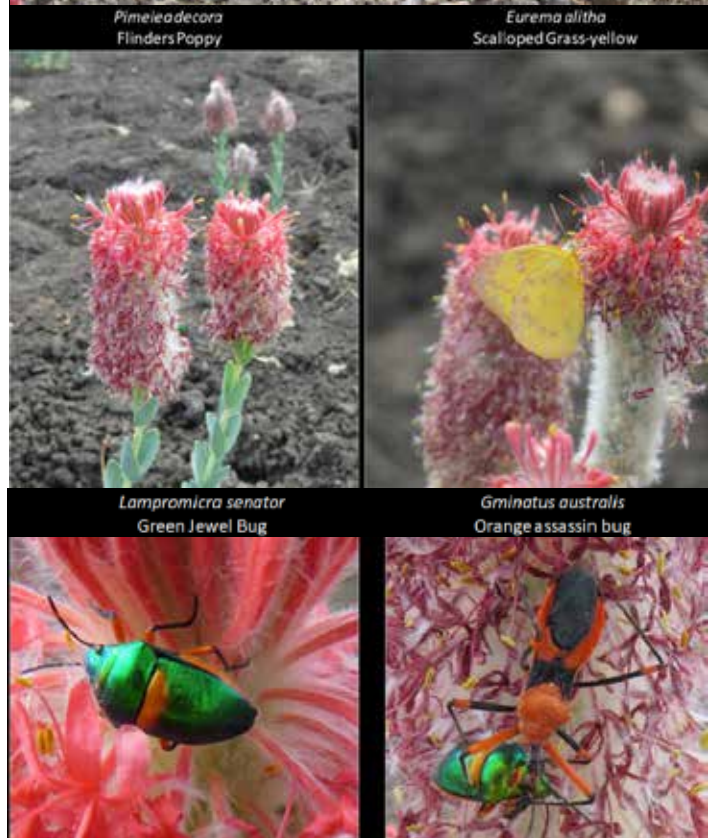
The presentation by Peter Rogers showed some of the highlights that he and partner Alison experienced on their trip from Winton in Queensland across through Mt Isa to Three Ways (near Tennant Creek) in the Northern Territory.

With three of the first six slides being of birds, his absence meant that Graham Goods was missing a treat tonight. (There were 22 bird species/slides in all.)

The 140 or so slides were well balanced with plants (including Peter's beloved mistletoes), birds, the occasional wildlife and both natural and man-made scenery. The presentation certainly covered all aspects of the trip, including some tracks, roads and a road-train.

An example of Peter's breadth of interest in all things natural are the pictures of *Pimelea decora*, Flinders poppy. As well as views of many aspects of the *Pimelea* plants and flowers, Peter captured a butterfly, a Green Jewel Bug and an Orange Assassin Bug feeding on a Green Jewel Bug.

The presentation was particularly interesting to the



Bedggoods as they did the reverse trip in 2021 from the NT across to Mt Isa and Cloncurry but then heading north. They did not see so many birds.

Alan Bedggood.



Alison and Peter Rogers relaxing on their holiday.



Acacia retivenea **subsp** *retivenea*.



Grevillea refracta Silver leaf Grevillea.



Hakea lorea. Corkwood.



Polyura sempronius Tailed Emperor.



Varied Lorikeet.



Budgerigar.

Wartook Gardens Flowers

Text & Photos: Royce Raleigh

Hakea cycloptera - These last few months have seen some wonderful flowers in the garden and we believe flowering earlier than is usual, despite much wet and cloudy weather. Hakeas in particular, are flowering very well this year, and from our records at least 2-3 weeks earlier than in past years. I would be interested in whether other members have noticed slightly differing flowering periods in recent years.

One of the earliest to flower for us is *Hakea cycloptera* from South Australia where it is a low shrub on the Eyre Peninsula. It has grown much larger here. We are growing the usual white colour and also the less common pink form. They are a very prickly *Hakea*, and stems can be quite heavy when full of seed cases. It is a great early splash of colour in the garden after the Autumn.



Hakea cristata – a good white that will brighten the corner of a garden. It will grow to 2m x 2m and the new growth after flowering is a lovely tan colour.



Hakea laurina weeping form – this form is interesting in that the flowers are much larger than the usually commonly grown upright *Hakea laurina*.



Hakea obtusa. As I write this (end of June) *Hakea obtusa* is in full flower and is regularly seen with many honeyeaters feeding vigorously. Over the years we have noticed that this is one of the best Hakeas for the birds.

Hakea subsulcata flowers on the old wood which is great for little nectar feeding birds as they are protected. After flowering lovely velvety new foliage appears. Another plant that is flowering at the moment.



Grevillea “Billy Bonkers” has made a great display this year and has flowered the best it has for us.



Crowea saligna is another plant that flowers for a long time at this time of year. It is also a wonderful cut flower in that it will stay looking great in a vase for a very long time. *Crowea exalata* is probably more commonly cultivated.



Hakea pycnoneura Another great plant is *Hakea pycnoneura* as it is keenly sought after by the honeyeaters of the garden. Quite strappy like leaves and it flowers earlier than *Hakea invaginata* which has a pink flower (similar form) and much finer grooved leaves.



Hakea invaginata



Banksia spinulosa. What a wonderful plant *Banksia spinulosa* is! There are just so many forms – this one is “Birthday Candles”. We have other forms with black pins and also in pure yellow. We also have other low growing forms and large upright plants to almost 3m. They are such great food for the birds of the garden.

Pandorea pandorana

Text & Photos: Graham Goods

Pandorea pandorana is a climber that thrives on hard pruning. *Pandorea pandorana* has several variants, most of which grow in high rainfall areas along the east coast and lower Great Dividing Range. However we are growing the inland form which Maree and I have seen in Standley Chasm Northern Territory. It has masses of showy cream flowers in spring. Despite being a dry country species I believe it would have almost constant access to moisture in the deep cracks and crevices of the West Macdonnell Ranges.

Our plant, probably 40 plus years old has grown very well on and around a concrete water tank on the farm. To be honest I don't know why it is growing so vigorously on this site, perhaps it likes the cool sandy root run under the tank or possibly water is seeping from fine cracks underneath and the plant is happily lapping up the extra moisture. Our specimen has masses of flowers in spring, I am unsure about frost hardiness as the mass of concrete and water would modify the frost environment.

The genus, six in Australia has a number of colourful species and varieties. *Pandorea pandorana* will always grow vigorously on a good site so expect to have to control it or give it a large trellis, fence, tree or tank stand to climb on.

The following are a few photos to show how I pruned it, with my trusty chainsaw of course, and then recovery.



26 May 2021. Above and below: Hard pruning but not quite a massacre.



26 May 2021. Some severe discipline needed here. Looks like it wants to take over the world.



8 September 2021. Signs of life. New shoots appearing.



25 May 2022. As wild as ever, why did I bother.



Pandorea pandorana massed flowering over an arch on Graeme and Libby Gulline's property.



An arch on Graeme and Libby Gullin's property covered by the flowers of *Pandorea pandorana*.



The flowers of *Pandorea pandorana* covering a tank on the Goods Property. Note: these flowers have red striped centres.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be for November/December 2023. The committee is looking for as many contributions as possible for the next newsletter. Take some photos of what's flowering in your garden and tell us a little bit about them. Like what we have for the specimen table at our meetings. Or you may have had a trip into the bush. Show us what is flowering there. Remember newsletters are only as good as the contributions that are made to them. Please send all photos and articles to: wimmera@apsvic.org.au by 1 October 2023.



GARDENS FOR LIFE

ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference - Melbourne

Hosted by Australian Plants Society Victoria

30th September to 4th October 2024

Please register your expression of interest by clicking on:
<https://apsvic.org.au/anpsa-biennial-conference-2024/>

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