



Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants Inc

Registered No: A001049IR

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President: 0491 091 115 Secretary: 0417 059 312

February March April 2024 Newsletter

Program for 2024

Thursday 1 February, 7:30pm. Horsham CWA Hall:

Propagating by seed, cuttings, division and grafting

Specimen Table – please bring flowering plants from your garden for the specimen table even if you don't know the name of it. It will be great to see what is flowering at this time of the year.

Supper: Mary Donald

Plants for Raffle: G&M Goods

Sunday 4 February, 1:30pm: Home Propagating Setup.

Venue: 180 Barnes Boulevard, Horsham.

Home of Alan and Wendy Bedggood. Come and see an example of a home propagating system.

Thursday 7 March, 7:30pm. Horsham CWA Hall:

Speaker: Neil Marriott - *Endemic Plants of the Grampians*

Specimen Table – please bring flowering plants from your garden.

Supper:

Plants for Raffle:

Thursday 4 April, 7:30pm. Horsham CWA Hall:

David Handsome - *Botanical Gardens and Parks of eastern NSW*

Specimen Table – please bring flowering plants from your garden.

Supper:

Plants for Raffle:

Thursday 2 May, 7:30pm. Warracknabeal Town Hall Supper Room:

Judy Allen - *Mallee Flora Suitable for Cultivation in Gardens*

Specimen Table – please bring flowering plants from your garden.

Supper: Warracknabeal members

Plants for Raffle: Warracknabeal members

Thursday 6 June, 7:30pm. Horsham CWA Hall:

Ade Foster. *Frogs*

Specimen Table – please bring flowering plants from your garden.

Supper:

Plants for Raffle:

July: No Meeting

Newsletter Editor

The WGAP committee is still searching for a **newsletter editor**. If you would like to have a go please do not hesitate and contact:

Mary 0417 059 312 or

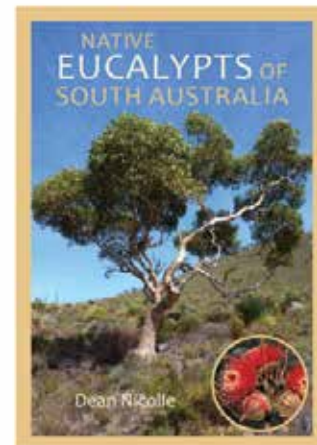
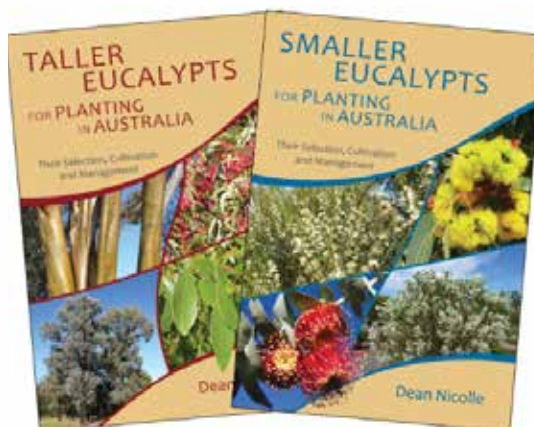
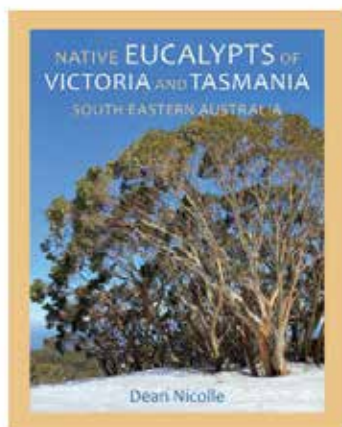
wimmera@apsvic.org.au

Sunday 4 August. TBA

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 September (a weekend away)

Currency Creek Arboretum and garden visits on the Fleurieu Peninsula, South Australia

Day 1: Currency Creek Arboretum (79 km south of Adelaide and 8 km north of Goolwa) was established and is managed by Dean Nicolle. The arboretum has the largest collection of eucalypt species in the world, with over 900 species and subspecies (and over 8000 individual plants) having been planted on the site, more than double the number of eucalypt taxa being grown on any other one site elsewhere. Dean Nicolle is the author of many books.



Native Eucalypts of Victoria and Tasmania, Smaller & Taller Eucalypts for Planting in Australia South-eastern Australia

Native Eucalypts of South Australia

Day 2: Garden visits on the Fleurieu Peninsula

This weekend excursion is in conjunction with APS Warrnambool and APS Grampians Group. It will be a fabulous weekend with more details to follow.

Sunday 6 October, 1pm. Garden visits in the Horsham/Haven area. More details to follow.

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 September. Horsham Spring Garden Festival

November. TBA.

Christmas Breakup. TBA.

Plant Raffle

Each meeting we have a plant raffle. One of the members provides about six plants and tickets sell for \$1 each. Our secretary, Mary will have a roster at the first meeting to put your name down if you would like supply plants for the raffle at one of our meetings. It's a great way for propagators to get rid of their excess plants.

Supper

Each night meeting we have someone who can facilitate and supply supper. Our secretary, Mary, will have a roster at the first meeting to put your name down if you feel you are able to help out.

Photos of your garden

If you have any photos of your garden or a specific plant in flower please feel free to email wimmera@apsvic.org.au and if possible it will be used for future newsletters. You might be able to tell us a little bit about it also would be greatly appreciated. To start the ball rolling see the photo below.



After lots of trying this is the first Sturt's Desert Pea, *Swainsona formosa*, we have managed to get to the flowering stage in our garden. Graham and Maree Goods.

A Weekend with the Warrnambool APS Group, Cup Weekend

What a treat we had with the Warrnambool APS Group who hosted 15 members of the Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants during Cup Weekend.

The program started off Saturday morning at the James Swan Reserve. We were given a great run down of the Reserve by Kevin Sparrow followed by a walk through. It is impressive how they have continued to maintain the Reserve as well as retaining some of the historic relics such as a wall.

From here we travelled to the garden of Ross Dawson and Sue Blood near Tower Hill where we were welcomed with Sue's cooking of morning tea. All our members were in awe of their garden and were given the opportunity to take any cuttings, an offer which several people greatfully accepted. A feature of the garden were the various rocks, hence the name of the property, The Rocks. A central feature were the Gynea lilies which were in flower. Photos hardly do justice to this garden. However it did not end there. Ross treated us to a barbecue lunch with salads that he and Sue had made from ingredients growing in their own garden.

Next was the garden of David and Linda Handscombe. David and Linda had previously lived at Pomonal so for some of us it was great catching up with them. Once again we were treated with some spectacular plants and landscaping. It was easy to get lost in these beautiful gardens. David and Linda also grow cut flowers and some of us couldn't resist wandering through the rows of their plants.

Saturday night we had a wonderful meal at the Images Restaurant. Between the two groups there were over 30 of us and the laughter and chatter indicated everyone was enjoying themselves immensely.

Sunday we spent travelling along the Great Ocean Road visiting Lake Gilleard, viewing the spectacular coastal scenery of the Bay of Martyrs, lunch at Peterborough, and a 2.4km walk through some great natural bush to Port Campbell.

Many of us came home very enthused and eager to get into our own gardens trying to emulate what we had seen. A very big thank you to David and Linda Handscombe, Ross Dawson and Sue Blood, and Kevin and Joyce Sparrow. We were treated like royalty and those of us who were fortunate to go are still talking about it.

James Swan Reserve



Garden of Ross Dawson and Sue Blood



Garden of David and Linda Handscombe



Bay of Martyrs



Walk to Port Campbell



WGAP 2023 End of Year Breakup

Our end of year breakup started at the garden of Gary Pilgrim and Anne Erskine. It is a combination of introduced Australian plants that works well for them. The garden is a mix of mature and young plants. Features of the garden was the metal work especially the eagle and a pond planted out with various water plants.

The next garden that was visited belonged to Graham and Maree Goods. It is only a new garden with the last bed planted three months prior. It is a garden in progress. Feature of the garden was the variation of low growing plants and daisies.

The feature of the evening was a two course sit down meal in the Goods carport. It was enjoyed by all and provided by Chick Pea Cafe. In between main course and dessert was a Special General Meeting to adopt the new Model of Rules which were adopted by unanimous vote .

Some members went away with a collection cuttings and/or servings of left over food.

Garden of Gary Pilgrm and Anne Erskine



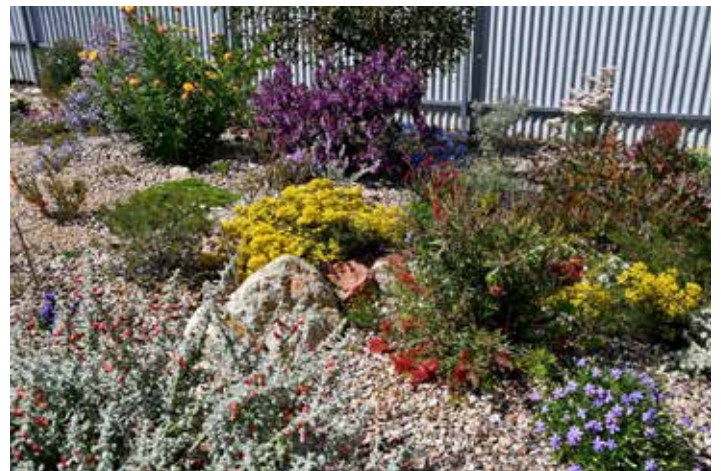
Photos: Maree Goods.



Goods Garden.



Photos: Mabel Brouwer.



Sit down meal.

Some plants from Wartook Gardens

Text & Photos: Royce Raleigh

We often forget about planting to have plants in the garden in bloom across the calendar year. Many of us buy plants at the ideal time to plant them and we invariably buy from a nursery, plants that are in flower or about to come into flower. As a result we often do not see or recognise plants that flower at other times of the year.

With all the rain and the hot humid weather that we have had this year, it has proved to be a challenge for gardeners. On the one hand it has enabled us to continue planting through the summer and on the other, it has caused us many losses of plants in the garden. Plants of the proteaceae family are very susceptible to dropping dead suddenly when we get lots of rain and hot humid weather. For us we have lost Hakeas, Grevilleas, Banksias and Dryandras.



Banksia brownii has succumbed to all the wet weather.

Melaleuca eximia – for a long time this was considered a form of *Melaleuca coccinea* as it flowers at about the same time, but when you grow both it is obvious that they are quite different. In a garden both species will get to 2-3m with *eximia* being a more upright plant. Pruning will keep them smaller if you prefer.



Melaleuca eximia.

It was very sad to go out one day in the garden and find this - *Banksia brownii*.

This is *Banksia brownii* and it was growing so well and over two metres high. It had yet to flower. *Banksia brownii* grows naturally in gullies in the Stirling Ranges of WA and although we had it in a well-drained spot with a cool root run, on the south side of the house we still could not keep it alive. We lost another *Banksia* – *dryandroides* that was also many years old- another sudden death. We have also lost tall plants of *Hakea francisiana*, some hybrid Grevilleas and a number of Dryandras. Most of the Dryandras that we lost were from our plantings in 1982 so were over 40 years old.

We have managed to collect some seed so we start again!

Now for the positives-

A number of showy plants have flowered through the holiday period. Most people know *Melaleuca coccinea* as a bright red showy plant just before Christmas but here is the lovely pink form.



Melaleuca coccinea (pink).

Another plant flowering over Christmas is a *Lomatia* and we are not sure of the species, other than that it is a NSW one.

A lovely plant almost 2 metres high and it is interesting in having two different leaf forms on the one plant.



Lamatia species.



Angophora costata.

Angophora costata – these trees are now about 10 metres high and when in full flower just after Christmas day were alive with honeyeaters.



Hakea recurva subsp. *arida*.

Hakea recurva subsp. *arida* – totally different from the normal *Hakea recurva* that has long curved leaves and even larger flowers. This sub species grows more inland and for us it is nearly 3 metres tall and flowers after Christmas making a great show.



Eucalyptus rosacea.

Eucalyptus rosacea - closely related to *Eucalyptus synandra* differing in that it has non-drooping branchlets, and its less steeply-raised disc of the fruit. It is a fine Eucalypt to 3 metres tall, which shares with *E. synandra* the delicate flowers which age from cream to pink.



Calothamnus gilesii.

Calothamnus gilesii – a plant that is loved by all honeyeaters. Almost 2 metres high and a well shaped upright plant. This year it has flowered more than once in response to the rain.

Eucalyptus sepulcralis – a thin stemmed mallee with lignotuber. Crown is sparse and notably drooping, although it takes a few years to get to have the lovely weeping branches that make it so attractive. It also flowers at Christmas time and another loved by honeyeaters. Surprisingly it is rarely seen in cultivation.

Eucalyptus sepulcralis.



Eucalyptus rameliana

This rare eucalypt is another of our small ornamental eucalypts that would fit well into an average size town garden.

Maree and I have grown four specimens on our farm, 30 km north of Horsham, two of which are struggling. Fortunately the other two are looking quite good and flowering as I write this article, 11 January 2024. *Eucalyptus rameliana* is a small mallee type, but ours started initially on a single trunk as seedlings, later developing low branches that give the impression of a few trunks. We saw mature trees in central WA about 2 to 3 metres high, some with as many as 20 slender branches, arising from a lignotuber, most likely caused by a fire several years earlier.



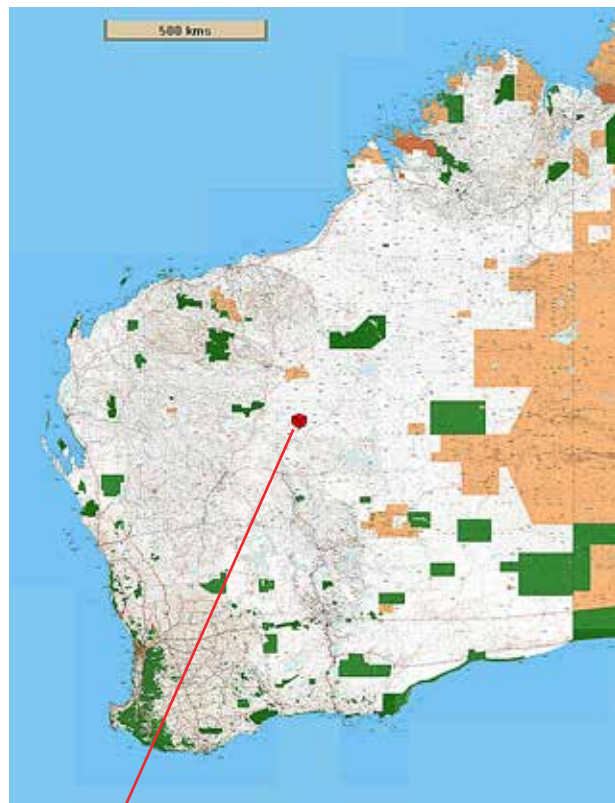
Eucalyptus rameliana, Lake Kerrylyn.



Eucalyptus rameliana, Goods farm.



Eucalyptus rameliana, Lake Kerrylyn.



Eucalyptus rameliana found near Lake Kerrylyn, WA.

A garden specimen, if undamaged, could easily be trained to have one to four trunks as desired. This species should prove extremely tolerant of dry conditions and very ornamental with largish cream, or if you are lucky pink flowers. The ribbony bark sheds to reveal pale grey almost white trunks and branches. Leaves are grey-green. Maree and I saw it growing near the Carnarvon range WA in sandy soil on the edge of Lake Kerrylyn. I suspect the clay lake bed may be slightly alkaline, but a well drained friable soils should be fine. One great feature of many of Australian small eucalypts is that they seem to flower quite quickly, three to five years old in our experience. I think *Eucalyptus rameliana* is becoming more readily available as nurseries become familiar with it. Search for it on the web and enjoy.

Graham Goods.



Pink buds of *Eucalyptus rameliana*, Lake Kerrylyn.



Eucalyptus rameliana, Goods farm.



Eucalyptus rameliana, Lake Kerrylyn.



Eucalyptus rameliana, young specimen almost two metres high, Goods farm.



Eucalyptus rameliana, with its multi stems, Lake Kerrylyn.

Neutrog

Closing dates for orders for 2024 are:

Autum:	Closing date 02.02.2024	Pickup early March
Winter:	Closing date 03.05.2024	Pick up early June
Spring:	Closing date 02.08.2024	Pick up early September
Summer:	Closing date 02.11.2024	Pick up early December