



Australian Plants Society Yarra Yarra Group Inc

(Incorporation No. A0039676Y)

Newsletter May June 2021

Latest News

Word of the month – Rain. More about that in this issue. Words for last month – plants sales and new members. See this page and more in this issue.

We have a bumper issue this time around. It covers the April and May meetings as well as the most successful Autumn Plant Sale and Giufre Garden Visit where numbers in equalled numbers out with no evidence of singed bits so the Dragon behaved well. Members please note that there is more detailed information on the coming Quarterly Gathering (one day only) in Shepparton on June 5. Also too, the Garden Visit at Peter Smith's on June 6.

There are also some interesting and entertaining articles from members with thanks to the Hedleys, Barfields & John Walkley - all in all a good read.

We welcome **15 new members** to the group from the Autumn Sale Membership Desk team. Congratulations to all concerned. We hope you enjoy this issue of APS YY news and we look forward to welcoming you at our General Meetings and various events throughout the year. Don't forget to pick up your free plant at the next meeting.

Welcome
to our new
Members



1. Jo-Anne Cardosi
2. Suzanne Craine
3. Pia Kaan
4. Louise McLennan
5. Patricia Rogers
6. Fiona Williams
7. Shona Hoyle
8. Sharrin Murphy
9. Julian Shaw
10. Dianne Wollaston
11. Sonika Balyan
12. Sigrid McCarthy
13. Fiona Parkin
14. Lynda Thompson
15. Patricia Todd

June 3

Thursday Speaker - Michaela Hamilton Winter Flowering Plants

7.30 pm for 8 pm start at Araluen, 226 Old Eltham Rd, Lower Plenty VIC 3093

Michaela works at Kuranga Native Nursery in Mt Evelyn. She is qualified in Land Management and Conservation with a passion for native plants, and a specific interest in Eucalyptus. She has experience in the horticultural industry; having had roles in garden maintenance, wholesale nursery tree production and now in retail nursery. She will be talking about winter flowering plants and also a little on how to add interest to a garden using a variety of eucalyptus species.



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Correa Catie Bec & Eucalyptus websteriana - Ben Eaton

APS VIC & APS YY Diary Dates

5 June APS Vic COMM & Quarterly Gathering

9.30 am Registration and cuppa at North Shepparton Community & Learning Centre 10/14 Parkside Drive Shepparton. (Off street parking)

10.00am -12.00 - 12.30 APS Vic COMM meeting. Morning Tea provided. BYO Lunch.

1.15 -1.30 pm tour of the **Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton**, Botanic Gardens Avenue, Shepparton.

2.30 pm Garden visit Drew Baglin 14 Acadia Downs Drive, Kialla. Afternoon tea provided.

BYO cup and Name Tag.

26 & 27 June 2021 – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show.

Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

4 Sept 2021 – APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick.

11 & 12 September 2021 – APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham. 10 am – 4 pm.

18 & 19 September 2021 – APS Bendigo Plant Show at Kangaroo Flat Primary School, Freeman Drive, Kangaroo Flat. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm both days. \$3 entry.

25 & 26 September 2021 – APS Grampians Group host APS Victoria COM Meeting & Quarterly Gathering.

2 & 3 October 2021 - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

9 October 2021 - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. A huge flower display, plant sales, floral art, Native Bonsai, basket weaving and other displays and demonstrations. 9 am - 4 pm.

16 October 2021 - APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo and Sale, Memorial Hall, Kilmore.

23 & 24 October 2021 – APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

More Diary Dates on page 3.

APS YY Future Speakers & Garden Visits

Speakers

Thursday 3rd July: *Neutrog Biological Fertilisers* – Helen Lovel from Neutrog

Thursday 5th August: *AGM; Vertical Gardens* – Ben Hutchinson from Ben Hutchinson Landscapes

Thursday 2nd September: *New Parks for Victoria's Central West* – Jordan Crook, Nature Campaigner, VNPA

Thursday 7th October: Grand Flower Table (Members)

Thursday 4th November: *Adventures of Bernie & Willie* - Ray Barnes & Mike Williams on their most recent WA adventure.

Thursday 2nd December: Christmas Party

About Our July Speaker - Helen Lovel, Customer Relationship Manager. Neutrog

Horticulturalist and farmer, Helen Lovel sells biological fertiliser by day and writes stories by night.

Helen started working in horticulture in 1985 & spent 15 years at a large retail garden centre. During that time she completed a Landscape and Garden Design course & gained a lot of joy from that – and still does.

She was Neutrog's first sales rep & her brief was to build the retail market in Victoria. That was 2005. Since then she has worked at various roles within Neutrog, including commercial and marketing. Today she spends time as Neutrog's Brand Ambassador, working around the country and is one of the contacts for all endorsing groups. A key aspect of this role is speaking with various groups & garden clubs about Neutrog's biological repertoire which includes information on their background, composting & manufacturing processes, research and development and the benefits of biological products.

APS YY Committee

Peter Smith - President, Garden Visits 0425 798 275.

Mike Williams - Vice-President 0418 372 262

Cathy Mann- Secretary, 0409 706 610

Sue Gwilym - Treasurer 0401 250 331

Carmen Cooper - Membership Officer, APS YY Growers 0413 012 045

Suzie Gordon - General Committee, APS YY Growers 0457 084 467

Anita Bourke - General Committee, APS YY Growers 0403 203 399

April 9 - Meeting
Report - Helen Corney, Gardens for Wildlife



Helen Corney from the Nillumbik Shire Council spoke to us about the Gardens for Wildlife program.

She has 2 roles in the Council – she manages the reserves (4/5 days per week) and the Gardens for

Wildlife– Nillumbik G4W (one day per week). G4W aims to encourage thinking about local gardens as part of nature and to create neighbourhoods that support the local wildlife. The program began in Knox City Council around October 2005 where two women & their small garden were the inspiration.

There are programs all over the Melbourne region now. Nillumbik G4W was launched in 2016 by a group of 7 volunteers and within 5 years has grown from 1 to 14 gardens now operating, with 12 more in development. They currently have 60 garden visits listed on their books with 50 more on the waiting list. The logo for the program is a Brushtail phascogale and each garden within the Nillumbik G4W receives a voucher for 20 free plants from Edendale. Sales at Edendale have increased exponentially as a result of this program.

To register your garden with them and for more information see <https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/>

APS YY
Garden Visit - 2 pm, June 6

Peter Smith's Garden. 3/4 of an acre on a north east facing hillside in Warrandyte, 1/3 of which is mostly Oz plants with some fruit and vegetables, 1/3 for driveway, sheds and house, and 1/3 of revegetation.

A diverse range of Australian plants, nurtured over a 30+ year period. Mostly gravel pathways with rock steps and handrails, level and terraced areas, a pond and a pipe bunker. There is parking on the nature strip and main road, and a few spaces on the property (for people who can't walk far).

Address - 54 Kangaroo Ground Road, North Warrandyte, 3113 Melway map 23, H8

[Environment/Environment-projects/Gardens-for-Wildlife](#)

In summary from the website:

- The program is designed by the local community in partnership with Council to meet local needs
- Joining the program is free
- The program is open to private residents, schools and eligible community groups (those with a suitable garden space)
- The program involves two trained Garden Guides visiting your garden for one hour to provide advice and support.
- Garden visits are non-judgemental and provide insights/information to assist you to increase habitat and food sources for wildlife in your garden
- Participants are provided with information on wildlife gardening, and access to the larger network overseen by Gardens for Wildlife Victoria

The logo image is also from the Website.



The Nest, Giugfre Garden. Image Ben Eaton

More
distant Diary Dates

11 – 16 September 2022, ANPSA Biennial Conference 2022 – Kiama, New South Wales. Preliminary details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can be found on the APS (NSW) website.

26 to 30 September 2022 - 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Melbourne. Influence and Action: Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change. Includes a youth program for future gardens' leaders aged 18 to 24.

15 & 16 October 2022 – 14th FJC Rogers Seminar. Topic: Fabulous peas (the typical 'pea-flowered' plants from the sub-family Faboideae. York on Lilydale, 138 York Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796. Expressions of interest and queries to fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com

Report -
May 2 Giufre Garden Visit

Venturing down the driveway *Lomandra longifolia*s were obvious together with a faint aroma of newly planted mint bush alongside large Coldstream rocks positioned to support the upper levels of the most recently developed section of the garden. Commencing the walk in Karen's garden, the initial surprise is the magnificent view towards the distant Kinglake Range. One descends with easy walking along the top section of the property where the garden exists without descending to the valley below.

There were so many different species. *Alyogyne huegelii*; the hardy, vibrant purple hibiscus, *Acacia cultriformis* & *vestita*, *Correas*, *Grevillea*, *Thomasia*, *Hakea* & *Eucalyptus*. Down the slope one was stunned into a complete stop by a magnificent life size mosaic Dragon. The many different patches of *Lomandra longifolia* & other grasses add interesting texture throughout the entire garden as one wanders.

Eucalypts find their place in this beautiful garden including many *Eucalyptus citriodora* (Lemon scented gum) with their smooth barked sculptural shapes. Then the surprise! A timber bridge over a dry creek bed conveniently enabled one to transverse across to the other side of the garden and a further surprise - the magnificent *Hakea Burrendong Beauty* and purple *Eremophila maculata* in full bloom leading to the Resting Place. This is a special place to rest and contemplate while seated on rocks specially positioned around a fire pit according to advice from a Wurundjeri elder – Karen's homage to the First Nation People of this land. Whilst resting, a side view extends to the 'water hole' which was originally a dam and in the foreground *Eucalyptus sideroxyton* or Ironbark trees which exudes a dark red tree sap stood in contrast to a *Eucalyptus melliodora* or Yellow box with its elliptic blue green leaves. On ascending from the garden and emerging onto the

patio, the mass underplanting of *Rhagodia* (salt bush) appeared and one smiled at the beauty opposite of a bright blue/purple *Eremophila drummondii* and a further *Eremophila maculata* making a statement with its many flowers with their beautiful spotted pink/purple throats.

Many lovely potted plants completed the scene - the potted *Guichenotia macrantha* with its large, papery purple lilac flowers a stand-out - with pleasant company and a sumptuous afternoon tea. Thank you Karen for a lovely afternoon in your garden.



Images from
Ben Eaton & Miriam Ford



If you would like to know more about how the Dragon was created see this film made by Miriam & Michael vimeo.com/manage/videos/551634606

Images p 4 Returning from the Resting Place, The Group - Helen, Sandra, Diane, Anita, Karen, Peter, Ben Bel, Jenny Kevin & Mike. This page - the Dragon, Group on the Bridge & Hakea Burrendong Beauty

This meeting saw members back at Araluen on the first Thursday of the month. Thank you to all those who presented their flowers and fruits on the evening. Nada & I are bringing you a different kind of Flower Table report this evening as Jill is otherwise preoccupied with helping her daughter with the birth & settling in of a second child.

General news before discussion on the topic of the night:

- The plant sale went very well with 589 visitors over the day.

- A volunteer is needed for the Expo committee.
- John Walkley spoke of the desire of a group of Eaglemont residents to team with the council to change nature strips from lawns to beds of native plants to rejuvenate the suburb designed by Walter Burley Griffin in 1926. He is interested in Yarra Yarra group providing plants and would like to source Australian daisy seeds.

Meeting Topic - Foliage, Flowers and Fruit

Chris Krolkowski presented a powerpoint where he concentrated on his favourite foliage plants: *Agonis flexuosa* dwarf, *Banksia blechnifolia*, *Allocasuarina torulosa*, *Eucalyptus macrocarpa* (a hybrid form we think), *Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty'*, *Hakea conchifolia*, *Hymenosporum flavum* dwarf, *Poa labillardieri 'Lime Tuff'*, *Lasiopetalum baueri* (very hardy) *Leptospermum obovatum* (burgundy foliage) and *Westringia Wynyabbie Gem*.

Mike Williams also concentrated mainly on foliage plants particularly *Thomasia*, a sun-loving 'really good' plant Genus originating, with one exception, in Western Australia. *Thomasia* species mentioned were: *quercifolia*, *brachystachys*, *foliosa*, *macrocarpa*, *solanacea*, *pauciflora*, *angustifolia*, *grandiflora*, *cognata*. Other favourite plants were *Eucalyptus websteriana* with its stunning flowers, great leaves and buds, *Stenocarpus sinuatus* (Firewheel Tree) and prostrate *Eremophila debilis* with its edible purple/ red berries. He also mentioned others worth considering for foliage, flowers and perfume: *Siegfriedia darwinioides*, *Correa baeuerlenii*, *Boronia crenulata*, *Backhousia citriodora* (Lemon Myrtle), *Veronica perfoliata* and *Spyridium parvifolium*.

Noel Gaskett chose *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, (Blueberry Ash) for its flowers, fruit and foliage, *Brachychiton populneus* (Kurrajong Tree) for its attractive flowers and foliage and *Acacia restiacea*, a dwarf grass-like wattle for its mass of flowers in Spring.



Images Clockwise: *Eremophila debilis*, *Siegfriedia darwinioides*, *Thomasia quercifolia*, *macrocarpa*, *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, *Thomasia brachystachys* & *Stylidium parvifolium*

Miriam Ford's list of desirable plants included three Acacias: *A.cultriformis*, silvery grey leaves and bright yellow flowers, *A.vestita*, interesting, weeping foliage and *A.triptera* 'Warby Ranges', lovely red flush on the leaf tips with serious barbs, watch-out! Others were *Eucalyptus forrestiana* with its lovely buds, *Isopogon formosus* with its highly divided soft foliage and splendid flowers and *Grevillea triloba* with its three-lobed foliage.

Anita Bourke drew our attention to the virtues of some of our locally indigenous plants. These included *Acacia acacinacea*, *Goodia lotifolia*, with lovely leaves, profuse pea flowers in Spring and *Cassinia aculeata*, a very easy to grow 'good filler' with curry fragrance. Others she liked were *Pimelia nivea*, *Hakea petiolaris*, known as the Sea Urchin *Hakea* for its pin cushion style flower shape & lovely big blue grey sculptural leaves and *Hakea neurophylla* with its lovely burgundy-veined leaves.

Ray Barnes mentioned some of his favourite plants: *Correa* 'Catie Bec', *Diplolaena grandiflora* with its showy red/orange flowers, *Grevillea* 'Misty Pink' and *Kunzea baxteri*.

Bruce Grose's lovely *Rhododendron lochiaie*, in a pot for 25-30 years, provided a fitting conclusion to the evening.



Images on both pages are from Ben Eaton & Mike Ridley (Document Camera).

This page clockwise from the top RHS - Acacia triptera, Diplolaena grandiflora, Stenocarpus sinuatus, Acacia cultriformis & Rhododendron lochiaie

APS YY Autumn Plant Sale - Saturday 24 April

Peter Smith (APS YY President). Prior to the Sale, there were various discussions on venue, size of sale, and whether to charge an entry fee. There was a bit of nervousness (with the COVID situation) and the size of the affair. Once the decisions were made and with the efficient organising skills of Jill, with input from Mike W, the whole thing came off well. A big effort on the afternoon and evening beforehand with many helpers and not too many glitches despite the huge number of plants coming in and out and rain coming right on time for the pack up, all was achieved with a spirit of co-operation. Many thanks to those who helped, and to the various growers who also showed courtesy and co-operation. Our enthusiastic public were well managed - perhaps shown no other option by our COVID Marshall in Chief - Robert Cooper. Our efforts enticed a good number of new members – 15! A great effort and result all round.

Sue Gwilym (APS YY Treasurer). Trading was brisk, particularly in the morning but strong sales were recorded for most growers throughout the day. We had 585 people through the door, which is up from 2019 where we had 363 people attend the sale. Not sure whether that is a result of pent up enthusiasm after COVID or the amazing array of plants on sale, but we welcomed them with open arms (at a safe distance of course). We had four commercial growers in attendance – SunValley, Goldfields Revegetation, Latrobe Uni and Phil Vaughan and also the APS Victoria Book Sales. Our own Growers Group took in 596 plants and sold 231 with nearly a third being from the Mint & Westringia category. Overall, we had a good day with a profit for the group of \$2,270.

Mike Williams (APS YY Vice President). Initially there was some re-jigging of the table layout as I don't think any of us thought there would be so many plants come in. In the end it worked out well. I think COVID had a lot to do with this as plant sales didn't happen in 2020. I believe that all growers – APS YY & others - have learnt much about how to pack and present plants better with excess stored under benches to replace sold stock at times during the day. This will be essential at EXPO as space for Sales will be halved due to the Flower Displays. Drop off and pick up for plants is always problematic – this is always somewhat chaotic and difficult to adhere to particular time slots - the only thing we can do is once a vehicle is empty it is removed immediately to make room for others. We are fortunate that we could borrow the two large trolleys from LaTrobe. The APS YY committee have now committed to ordering 2 of our own to assist with moving plants more efficiently at future sales.

From the APS YY committee to our membership – APS YY always welcomes growers within the membership who wish to sell plants at our sales and General Meetings. It is important that you adhere to our quality control guidelines– this document can be emailed to you by our Secretary. You can also get in touch with Mike, Carmen, or Miriam if you have any queries - their contact information can be found on page 2. With respect to our Autumn and EXPO sales - you must submit a plant sale list and a request for an allocation of table space prior to the sale.

The committee is also keen to get feedback on the sale - observations & recommendations from volunteers, plants sellers & our plant buyers would be appreciated.



Some Images from the Weekend



Images - Page 8 The Mint Bush Display in the APS YY Sale Area and Suzie hiding in the bushes. Images this page - Goldfields, La Trobe and Sun Valley Plant Sales, Phil Vaughan Plants, Two large foliage and flower displays, arrangements by Suzie Gordon at the Sale. The one above greeted people as they entered while the one on the LHS was in the APS YY sales section. All drew lots of positive comments.

Whatshisname - I blame Carl!

I have always struggled with - indeed been intimidated by - botanical names. For so long it's been easier to point than to pronounce. Less embarrassing certainly. Never been tutored or nurtured and nudged along by the gentle corrections of a indulgent gardening Grandma. Nor had the reproaches of a school languages teacher masquerading as an horticultural wannabee.

Marriage has not bestowed a pronunciation correction dowry either time, which is a pity as the endowed facility that automatically corrects, upgrades and updates what one thinks and does has worked consistently well down the years. And not for me the formality of Socratic lectures in botany and taxonomy.

At root it is, of course, the fault of Linnaeus.

Whoever thought it was a reasonable proposition to let a Nordic native speaker set up a system of nomenclature based on Latin and Greek for those of us versed in the English tongue? One gets a hint of looming problems for the proletariat down the track when you realise the bloke himself was variously known as Carolus Linnaeus, Carl Linnaeus, and Carl von Linné. Enough said. Almost.

Over time this reluctance to give audible proof of one's ignorance has been compounded by a memory system that has been in constant use for over 69 years. Many years back my eldest child - then pre-teenage - caused great mirth at the dinner table by regaling us about her love of the "you cally pups" trees. Clever girl but her younger siblings thought it hilarious. Correct pronunciation was offered and we moved on to dessert.

Nowadays I am having more trouble with Eucalyptus species identification than she had with genus pronunciation. Perhaps being tongue-tied and stumbling was a heritable trait. You may have similar problems. It does not matter how many books and guides you consult, nor neighbours and gardening friends you ask, it is hard to pin down exactly which common species is which. They can look very similar what with all having leaves, stems, flowers etc. Those little black pots all look the same after a while.

Can anyone help with the key distinguishing features of several that have been held in my nursery section in recent times.

- E. whatitsname
- E. ohwhatsitcalled
- E. thingamejig
- E. ahyouknow
- E. ittlecomebacktomesoon
- E. godiusedtoknowthat
- E. wonderwhatthatis
- E. damntheresnolabelhere
- E. justhangonitwillcometome
- E. geeznotsureanymore
- E. waitabitwillrememberit
- E. dearohdearwheresthelabel
- E. miriamdidtellmethatonce
- E. ummmhardtoknowjustatthemoment
- E. hmmmithinkthatsatypeofgumtree

There are some others I will not mention here as they are unlikely to get past the Editor's stewardship of proper standards of expression in this august journal. The old standbys of head scratching or beardstroking with the free hand seem regrettably ineffectual post-Covid.

The problem is compounded of course by the flagrant mis-representation of pens claiming "Permanent", Waterproof, Fade Resistant, UV Resistant and so on. And you just have to hope those shiny white labels - so rigid and sturdy looking in the packet - survive a couple of months in the sun.

This gives rise to new species such as:

- E. incognito
- E. notsureiensis
- E. indeterminata
- E. variabilisfromdaytoday
- E. ithinkitmightbe

Then just when you reckon it is safe to open your mouth in knowledgeable company if confident about the species you must take a quick furtive glance at the texts to see if this week Eucalyptus has to be pronounced Angophora or Corymbia. Lets you see why men of a certain age and marital status think pointing with a wiggling index finger while mumbling softly "I'll have one of those thanks" is a good safe thing.



Community Projects - Update from the APS YY Growers



One of the Growers' briefs is to propagate plants suitable to donate to Community Projects. In recent times we have donated a large number of plants from our General Stock & Mint Bush & Westringia Collection to a variety of places. These include the Kevin Hoffman Walk, Lara; the Eltham Men's Shed, two primary schools in Eltham, the Stationeers' planting along the Hurstbridge Railway Corridor (Eaglemont/Ivanhoe area) & Wycliffe, Kangaroo Ground. The images on this page illustrate just some of these donations. Sometime later in the year we will present a more detailed compilation slide show of these events that also show how the planting has progressed.

All keen propagators please note - The APS YY Growers meet every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month at Carmen's - just get in touch with her if you would like to join. Beginners are welcome.



Images this page - LHS Column Daniel, Bec & their son with plants for the South Eltham Pre-School Garden, The Front Garden planting & the Understorey Planting at the Eltham Men's Shed. Above - Matt Leach, Head Gardener & Curator of the Kevin Hoffman Walk, Lara, Geelong with a selection of Prostanthera at the APS Geelong Sale. All images - Miriam Ford.

Hello from Colac Way - The Barfields

Hello everyone from Barongarook. I was not able to say goodbye to many of you prior to departure earlier this year.

Currently Gordon and I are house sitting on 1.6 acres of property which is about 6kms south of Colac. The current garden is what came in pots, some samples hastily taken in the hope they will propagate and a row of *Banksia grandis* and both colour forms of *B. praemorsa* planted here in January and thriving in sandy loam soil. We are enduring the process of design and build of a house in Point Lonsdale. The soil is typed as silver sand which either is going to be a joy to plant in or not. Certainly some local species seem to sit there for some time before an explosion of growth goes on. It will be difficult to remain constrained to a simple beachside theme when the old urges remain to try one of everything!

We are a few kilometres away from the Otways but it is hard to say where it starts and where it ends as so much has been eaten into the forest by farm land and of course for plantation logging. It was a great relief to

be informed that logging of natural habitat was ceased some years ago. We have managed to visit a few of the many waterfalls, discover some beautiful patches of forest via backtracks through stunning rainforest dense with tree ferns, gushing streams, massive *Euc. regnans* and Myrtle Beech. We were disappointed to learn there are no lyrebirds here but are on the lookout for Satin Bowerbirds.

Here at home we are surrounded by Grey Fantails, Striated and Brown Thornbills, Wrens and now Golden Whistlers and Scarlet Robins for the Winter. They are so much a part of the fabric of nature and sorely missed in our Melbourne gardens. All the best to you all and I will drop a line again along the way from up the garden path somewhere.

Images: Otway Ranges Falls & Pools. Scarlet Robin.



Sue Gwilym

National Tree Day - Sunday 1 August

On National Tree Day, Sunday 1st August, Yarra Yarra group will partner with Rotary to help them fulfil their targets in their 'Plant a Thousand Trees' programme. The Initiative is a worldwide effort by Rotary International to support our environment and they are hoping to exceed that target with the help of individuals and community groups like us.

The aims are firstly to regain our disappearing tree canopy and habitat links along the Diamond Creek between Eltham and the Diamond Creek township and secondly to educate and encourage the community to be active in looking after our environment.

They are looking for teams of 10, comprising 2 experienced planters with 8 inexperienced. Our gardening expertise will be invaluable in providing guidance to other less knowledgeable members of the community, so if you feel that physically you can't participate in the planting then feel free to put up your hand for a supervisory role directing others in the correct techniques. It will be a day of fun as well and Rotary will

look to have BBQ Trailers in several locations to support the volunteers. They also hope to have tree locations marked electronically so that volunteers can return to weed and care for their trees in the future.

We will have more information available shortly and will be in touch closer to the time, but for now save the date – **Sunday 1st August**



Early morning beams through the bush, Hurstbridge. MF

A new updated Eremophila book



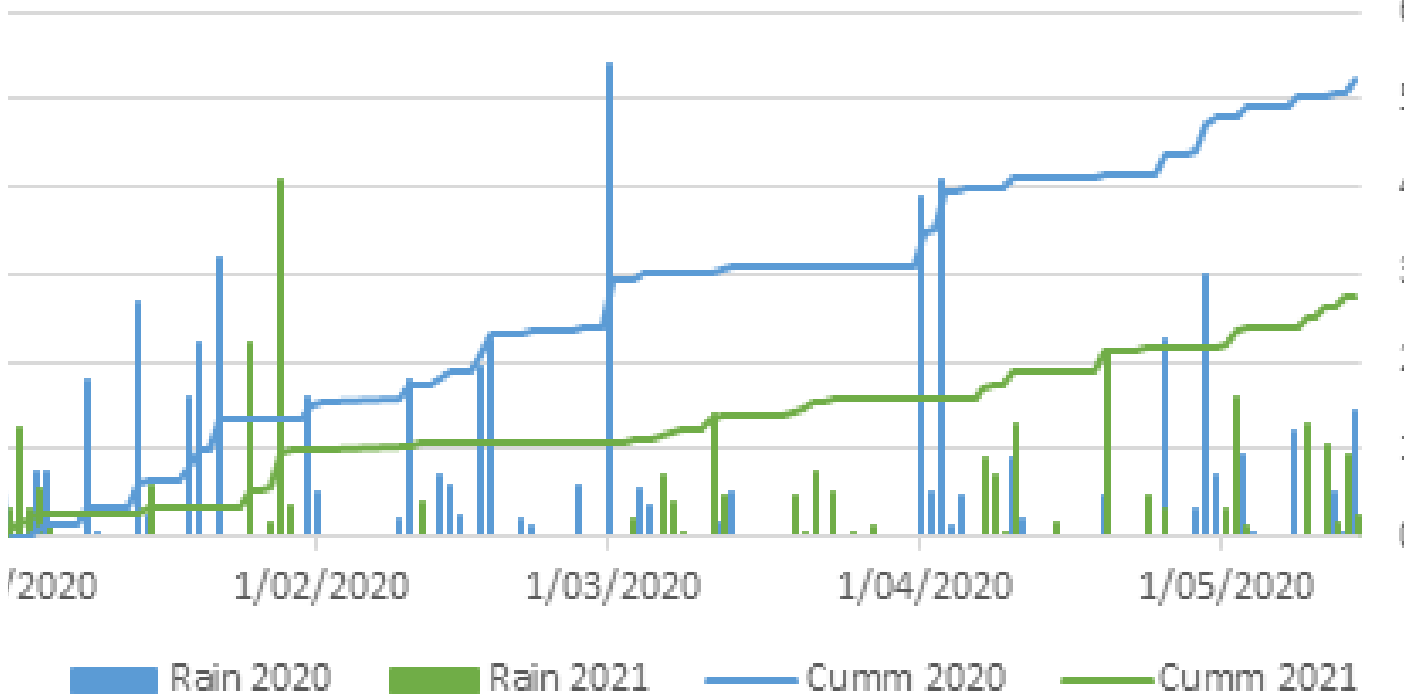
Russell is one of our members.

He, with an expert team has spent many years gathering the data to create this lovely book.

It will be going to press in June and you can register your interest at the email given.

This book while similar in dimensions to the previous is much longer (~500 pages) with twice as many species including hybrids covered.

Rainfall Comparison 2020/2021 Daily & Cumulative (mm)



This piece was inspired by a frog on top of the rainfall gauge post. Jenny was telling me about this amphibian, image provided, and was wondering if this frog was limbering up for the Olympics. This post is almost a meter high. The Hedleys gather daily data from their Hurstbridge raingauge and because I know Graeme loves data analysis I asked him to do a comparison between this year and last for us. Well - a picture speaks a thousand words doesn't it! My memory is clearly foggy as I thought we had plenty more rain this year but how emphatic is that! Thank you Graeme, Jenny & said froggie Olympian.



STOP PRESS!

From Jenny, our librarian. Please return all outstanding books. A recent stocktake revealed a few still missing. These were borrowed prior to the COVID lockdown and may have been forgotten. Please check & return or we may come knocking on your door!

Other APS YY Matters -

Help Please at the General Meetings

- With arranging chairs for the meeting, replacing in original design after & with setting up plant sale & flower tables.
- With the meet and greet at the entrance, remind people to sign in & to buy their \$2 – entrance & raffle tickets
- With Plant Sales, counting plants in & out, taking cash. Plant sellers must help with their plants.
- With the setting up & working the visual and audio devices for the meeting – Rob & Mike R can advise
- With writing the meeting report. You can take your own notes or have a recording sent to you to transcribe.
- With assisting with Supper (Suzie) & the Library (Jenny)

All things must be done with the current COVID safe practice in mind. Again someone will be on hand to monitor and assist. We can have cups of tea/coffee but they will be served to you by the kitchen people. Individually wrapped snacks also available.

The APS YY Newsletter

Contributions from the members to the newsletter.
This particular issue of APS YY newsletter benefits from a variety of different voices. Thank you to all the contributors, keep them coming.

July Issue due date - Friday, June 18

You can email me on miriamdfc30@gmail.com or apsyarrayarra@gmail.com. Or send to our PO box - APS Yarra Yarra, PO Box 298, Eltham. 3095.

This issue:

Thank you to all those people who submitted articles & images - Peter Smith, Mike Williams, Sue Gwilym, Bel Matthews, Nada Cunningham, John Walkley, Ben Eaton, Mike Ridley, Lyhn & Gordon Barfield, Jenny & Graeme Hedley, Miriam Ford (the editor). Thanks also to Sue Gwilym & Nada Cunningham for proof reading.

Thank-you Hume Bricks & Paving for your support of our EXPO & to Vicki Ward's office for printing.

In conclusion



Given the various themes in this issue I thought a few concluding images that capture our beautiful native plants showing off their ability to pull it all together would be appropriate - flowers, fruit & foliage. Indeed our lovely Eucalypts do it in spades. These images were taken on a recent visit to the Melton Botanic Garden. *Clockwise - Eucalyptus kruseana (Bookleaf mallee) E. macranda flowers and buds with their very long thin bud caps resembling sea urchin spines.*