



# AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY

## Yarra Yarra Group Inc.

(Incorporation No: A0039676Y)

### Newsletter March – April - 2022

#### Latest News

*Dear members, hope you enjoy the Autumn edition of our newsletter.*

**PLEASE NOTE: FROM APRIL 2022 ALL APS YARRA YARRA GENERAL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT EDENDALE COMMUNITY FARM, 30 GASTONS RD, ELTHAM, IN THE MUMMERY EDUCATION BUILDING.**

Starting time as usual. For more info see:

<https://www.edendale.vic.gov.au/Image-Galleries/Image-galleries-facilities-for-hire/Mummery-Education-Building>



© Edendale Community Farm website

**Plant Sale 19 March**-by all accounts a very successful day. A big thank you to everyone involved. A full report in the next edition.

#### Next Meeting

**Thursday April 7**

**At Edendale Community Farm - Bev Hanson – Designing Gardens in the Natural Style.**

In 1960 Bev graduated from Burnley Horticultural College with a degree in Horticulture. She then worked at Ellis Stones as a Landscape Architect assistant for five years learning the art of designing a naturalistic garden. She then started up her own business designing gardens. In 1980s and 1990s Bev lectured in landscape at various institutions such as the Council of Adult Education. In 1990s onward the Hanson Garden participated in the Open Garden Scheme. In 1999 Bev was awarded Citizen of the Year by Manningham council for various volunteer work towards preserving the environment and keeping the town of Warrandyte (where the family has lived for over 50 years) from unwanted development.

Her talk is titled 'Landscaping in the Natural Style'. She will endeavour to show what to look for in planning a garden and how to go about achieving the best result. To illustrate this, she will show several gardens both before, during and after construction. Some are new gardens starting with a clean slate, others are changing an existing garden. She will talk about retaining embankments as well as creating more interest on flat land by

changing levels. Every site is different. Some have the benefit of a view or other borrowed landscape, while others require planting to hide structures such as sheds.

## **APS YY Vic Diary 2022 Dates**

**Neutrog Orders** : now closed

Product delivery: 25 March 2022

Collection Address : 80 John Street, Eltham

**30/3/2022 – 3/4/2022**- Melbourne  
International Flower & Garden Show.

**9 April** - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks. 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

**7 May** APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale. Details to be advised.

**14 May** - APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. 9am to 1pm. Venue expected to be St Andrews Uniting Church at Bacchus Marsh, to be confirmed.

**June APS Vic COM** – to be advised.

**25 & 26 June** – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

**16 & 17 July**– Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Spring Plant Sale. 10am to 4pm. Wide range of plants. Plant list available one week before sale. Free entry.

**27 & 28 August** - **APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo**. Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days

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

**15 & 16 October – 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](mailto:fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com)

## **2022 Speakers**

**5 May – Roy & Jeanne Raleigh from Wartook Gardens - Lesser known plants for the garden.**

*Personally, really looking forward to this talk as have been reading about and following the progress of their garden in the APS Vic's quarterly newsletter for some time. Finally will be meeting them in the flesh! They have an article in the latest March edition of APS Vic's quarterly newsletter pages 16-18. Great photos as usual. Check it out.*

Royce and Jeanne Raleigh first joined the Maroondah Group of the then SGAP in the 1960's and Royce became an active propagator. Jeanne's avid interest in native plants came later and since the late 1970's she has done most of the propagation.

Royce and Jeanne purchased 70 acres of open farmland in 1973 and built their own home in 1974. Planting began in 1975 with over 600 plants carted up from Melbourne. Their aim was to create a garden that would show off plants to visitors, using paths and grassed areas between beds. They were foundation members of the Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants in 1976 with Fred Rogers as President and Royce as Secretary. Royce has spent many years as an office bearer – President, Secretary and Newsletter editor- while Jeanne has been a long time committee member.

In the 1990's Royce spent 3 years as State President of APS Victoria and is now an Honorary Life Member. He is currently leader of the Goodeniaceae Study group and spends time visiting various groups to talk on the many aspects of Australian Plants. Jeanne has been awarded an Impressa Award for Outstanding Service to Australian Plants by APS Victoria.

In the garden they gradually created areas where they could attempt to grow a wide range of plants, from all over Australia. It didn't take long before the garden was extended to cover the 5 acres it is today. This area has been rabbit and kangaroo-proofed with fencing. Over the years, water-logging, drought, storms, climate change and fires have taken their toll on the garden, but all of these problems have been a tremendous learning experience for them. They now feel that they can successfully grow a much greater range of plant species than they even dreamed of in the 1970's.

With many trips to parts of eastern and western Australia, as well as many visits to nurseries, and to APS members' gardens, they have sourced a large range of plants. Today they grow many species that are simply not available in most nurseries. The garden has around 2,000 species of Australian plants growing, most of which they have propagated themselves.

### **3 March Summary of Bill Aitchison's talk on Daviesia by Peter Smith.**

The genus *Daviesia* was first described in 1798 by James Edward Smith, an English botanist, from a collection brought to England from Port Jackson, and named to honour the Rev. Hugh Davies. *Daviesia* occurs only in Australia, and although widespread, more than half of the species are found in the south west of Western Australia.

Why talk on *Daviesias*? Pea plants in general are given less attention than other genera; there are few publications, there has not been an FJ C Rogers Seminar on Faboideae,

and there was only a short-lived Pea Study Group.

Bill was also drawn to this genus because there is up-to-date information from a 2017 publication by Prof. Michael Crisp on the complete review of the genus. ( Michael will be the keynote speaker at this years FJC Rogers Seminar)

What makes a *Daviesia*? Seed pods: triangular in shape the leaves are modified as phyllodes, many having prickles, thorns, spikes and spines. The foliage can appear similar to Acacias with which many share names e.g. *Ac. & D. genistifolia*, *Ulicifolia*. *Daviesias* don't have stipules. The common name "Bitter peas" aptly describes the taste of the foliage. Flowers are generally numerous, stalked, often small in red/orange/yellow colours, or mixtures of these. Usually in terminal or axillary clusters. Petal shape (Standard) : generally round or kidney-shaped.

Why are they not grown much and do they deserve to be grown more ? Very few *Daviesias* are available in nurseries and there is not much seed available from seed companies. The seed of some species can be difficult to collect and also difficult to establish. Dr. Julie Ardley at Murdoch University is investigating the relationship of Rhizobia with legumes in nitrogen fixing. Julie will be presenting some results of her research at the FJC Seminar.

*Daviesias*, although not popular in gardens – likely due to their prickly nature, e.g. *D. pectinate* – are good for attracting insects, native bees, butterflies, birds and even the dwarf bearded dragon, e.g. *D. benthamii*. There are small to medium-sized *Daviesia* that would make excellent garden specimens including *D. incrassate* ssp. *incrassata*, *D. trigonophylla* and *D. microphylla*. There are *Daviesias* that are suitable for growing in pots such as *D. cordata*, *D. epiphyllum* and *D. longifolia*.

Some interesting species: *D. arborea*: grows to a height of 8-12m, with a weeping habit. It is difficult to establish from cuttings and seeds are difficult to source. *D. schwarzenegger* and *D. devito*: the former being the larger and

more robust, the latter being the smaller and weaker of what was once thought to be subspecies of *D. benthamii*, but are now known to be unrelated. *D. laevis*: also known as the Grampians Bitter Pea, and thought to be extinct, until 2004 when populations were discovered on Mount Langi Ghiran.

*D. suaveolens*: occurs in Bermagui. It is one of the 4 *Daviesia* amongst 486 species considered by the Commonwealth Government to be endangered and requiring management intervention to secure their future following the bushfires in 2020.

*D. leptophylla*: common around Melbourne and has wide distribution.

*D. mimosoides*: it is widespread and in wide ranging altitudes.

*D. laefolia*: occurs from south east Queensland to southern Tasmania. Its common name is the Native Hop, and a description in 1914 lists its medicinal qualities, including use in a compound for cure of hydatids, worms in horses and in making yeast.

There is floral mimicry between Peas and Orchids: Where the orchid appears similar to the *Daviesia* to attract pollinators – e.g. *Daviesia divaricate* and *Diuris magnifica*, and *Daviesia decurrens* and *Diuris brumalis*.

Thanks to Bill for a very informative and entertaining talk on *Daviesia*, and a not too bitter taste of this diverse genus.

## 2022 Garden Visits

**April 10 - Bev & John Hanson**, 104 Webb St., Warrandyte. (Mel.23 E11), 2pm (please bring a plate for a cuppa and perhaps a chair) Bev is a well-known garden designer.

Easy signed parking on the property, towards the top of Webb St. Easy access, not steep, bush paths. Mostly native garden, some exotics, large ponds, blending with bush surrounds.

**May 22 - Bruce and Jill Schroder**, 17 Jubilee Rd., Montrose.(Mel.65 B1), 2pm (please bring a plate to share for a cuppa)

Parking on Jubilee Rd, steepish top garden full of interesting plants with a pond feature, gravel paths. Back yard a mixture of lawn and garden beds . Garden was in Open Gardens scheme in 2017.

### **Sunday 6 February, Jeanne Petts' garden at Pyalong. Report by Peter Smith.**

After a couple of false starts last year, it was terrific to be able to travel out to "WattleGum" at Pyalong - to the garden of former Yarra Yarra members, Jeanine and Mike Petts. Jeanine (now Mitchell Group's newsletter editor) and Mike were not phased by a February visit, having endured all manner of tribulations including last year's wild, wild wind.

Having been welcomed and some old acquaintances renewed, we set off to explore this substantial garden on a rather warm day. Among the built up beds of mostly herbs and fruit trees close by the bluestone house, was a bed of Kangaroo paws thriving in the sunny, raised garden (close by water). We then passed some variegated Elderberries laden with fruit, and the back yard opened out to the lovely backdrop of the low-lying land beyond. A substantial freeform pond, just newly established, had already drawn frogs from below. *Lythrum salicaria* (Purple Loosestrife) was shining in the warmth. Jeanine had used *Lomandras*, Blackwood wattles, *Correas*, and Tree Violets amongst other locals, and mixed them with other Oz plants to pleasing effect. Patti commented on how the juvenile plants of an earlier visit were now semi-mature trees.

Moving around to the front yard, the different stages of development and the regeneration efforts beyond were easily discerned. Jeanine explained how their original idea of an avenue of *Corymbia citriodora* along the driveway had changed with numerous losses due to the harsher and more frequent frosts experienced here. Her ideas had also been influenced by a



course that she had done at Burnley back in the early nineties, particularly the idea of “garden rooms” as outlined by John Patrick. Eucalyptus scoparia, frost and drought tolerant, were now semi-mature and their pendulous foliage framed a couple of these rooms. Eucalyptus albopurpurea and landsdowneana also featured. Banksias, Melaleucas, Callistemons and Grevilleas all had space to develop , while masses of Wahlenbergia, Xerochrysum, Coronidium, Chrysocephalum, and Eryngium ovine (Blue Devils) were at foot. Myoporum floribundum with its drooping narrow foliage had space here to show off its graceful form. A couple of Melia azedarach offered us some welcome shade.

After twenty years this garden is still very much a work in progress and this is only half of the story...for this former sheep grazing paddock of some 33 acres is now largely regenerated. Indeed a credit to Jeanine and Mike and others who may have helped them along the way.

**Photos of the day by Jill Lulham**







## **Administrative Matters**

### **The APS Yarra Yarra Committee:**

Peter Smith - President, Garden Visits,  
Mob 0425 798 275

Mike Williams - Vice President,  
Mob 0418 372 262

Cathy Mann - Secretary, Mob 0409 706 610

Sue Gwilym - Treasurer, Mob 0401 250 331

Carmen Cooper - Membership Officer,  
Growers Group, Mob 0413 012 045

Anita Bourke - General Committee, Growers  
Group, Mob 0403 203 399

Suzie Gordon - General Committee, Growers  
Group, Mob 0457 084 467

### **Newsletter - bimonthly**

Contributions for the Newsletter to the Editor  
Sonia Gatti by **Monday 16 May 2022** please.

Email: [soniagatti59@gmail.com](mailto:soniagatti59@gmail.com)

OR [yarrayarra@apsvic.org.au](mailto:yarrayarra@apsvic.org.au)

OR post to Newsletter Editor, APS Yarra Yarra,  
PO Box 298, Eltham 3095

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We wish to acknowledge the major sponsorship of our Expo by Hume Bricks & Pavers Pty Ltd

(<https://www.humebrickspavers.com.au/>)

Thank You!

Website: [www.apsyarrayarra.org.au](http://www.apsyarrayarra.org.au)

Facebook: [facebook.com/APSarrayarra](https://www.facebook.com/APSarrayarra)

**Meeting Particulars:** Visitors always welcome  
When: 8.00pm, 1st Thursday each month (except January). Doors open 7.30pm. Come early for plant sales. Supper following the meeting is provided.

Venue: Mummy Room, Edendale  
Community Environment Farm, 30 Gastons Rd, Eltham VIC 3095

Guest Speaker: Learn more through talks by expert speakers, and discussions following.  
Flower Table Specimens: Bring along your flowers, labelled, if possible, for the flower table. Share and swap cutting material for propagating.

Plant Sales: Members may buy plants, unusual varieties are often available, or sell their own.

Library: Members can borrow books from our specialist library.

Chairs: Members, please help set up chairs for the meeting from 7.30pm onwards and put away again after the meeting.

### **Flowering Brachychiton (acerifolius?)**



Photo by Peter Smith Jan 2022

*Peter informs me that this lovely flowering Brachychiton lives on busy Springvale Rd, Nunawading. Despite its less than ideal location, it seems to be doing well.*

*Have you seen a native plant thriving in an unusual/interesting location in Melbourne or Victoria? If you have, take a photo and send it to us with details.*