



# AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY

## Yarra Yarra Group Inc.

(Incorporation No: A0039676Y)

### Newsletter July – August - 2022

#### Latest News

*Dear members, winter is truly upon us and we have already had a number of frosty mornings in our garden in Diamond Creek. I have had to cover a number of my vulnerable young plants.*

*Despite the cold, APS Yarra Yarra has been very active in recent months. Our group has had a number of very successful garden visits and we have some exciting news regarding the Growers Group's move to Montsalvat. Also preparations have already begun for our annual Spring Expo which will be held earlier this year, at the end of August. See below more information about all our activities and get involved!*

*I recently returned from a trip to the MacDonnell Ranges in Central Australia. One of my favourite photos is this one of the flowering desert Ptilotus and Spinifex grass.*

*Keep warm and healthy.*

*Editor*

**A reminder that Membership Renewals are due (from 1<sup>st</sup> July). If you haven't already paid, please do so as soon as possible.**



Larapinta Trail, MacDonnell Ranges Photo by J. Ambrose

#### APS Yarra Yarra EXPO - 27 & 28 August 2022

**Set Up Friday 26th, Expo Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August 2022**



Report and photo by Jill Lulham

We haven't been able to put on our Expo for the last two years, so we are looking forward to holding our major event of the year again at

the Eltham Community and Reception Centre (ECRC).

A roster has been emailed/mailed out and we would appreciate your contribution no matter how small, so please get back to us as soon as possible with your available times. You will also have the opportunity to add your name to the roster at the August general meeting when we will have an idea of where we might have gaps to be filled.

Set up on Friday will involve moving equipment and setting up trestles and other infrastructure, helping plant sellers set up, getting flowers into displays, labelling, and generally getting stuff done. For those doing the late shift we will shout you pizza.

Donations of flowers and plants, hanging baskets and display pots can arrive from around 9.00am to the back veranda area of ECRC (near the kitchen). Please deliver your cut flowers in water in buckets and name the plants (if known). Let us know if you need help with getting flowers or plants to the Expo, and if you are bringing them yourself, please unload at the bottom carpark, but then move your car when finished to the upper carpark to allow others to do the same. No further donations of flowers will be required after 6.00pm on Friday, thank you.

Saturday and Sunday helpers will be needed in two hour shifts from 8.00am to 4.00pm, and this is where we will need help with welcoming visitors, front desk ticket sales, plant stall sales, membership information table, children's activity table, book sales, and general assistance where needed. On Sunday we will also need help with packing up from 4.00pm to 7.30pm.

You also get free entry if you are assisting and you are a financial Yarra Yarra member. Don't forget to sign in and wear your name badge. Signing in is a must for insurance purposes and our liability with ECRC.

If you can't help at the Expo please assist us with advertising it – we have flyers available which you can pick up at the general meeting for distribution in your local area or letterboxes in your neighbourhood. We have attached an email version if you want to send to your

contacts as well. Please share as widely as possible.

Please come along and help if you can, it's a lot of fun and a great way to get to know everyone in the group. A lot of work has already been done by Jill Lulham and the team in the months leading up to the Expo, but we need as much help as possible to set up and run an event we can all be proud of.

## **Growers' Group on the Move !**

### **Report and photos by Carmen Cooper**



It's taken a while but our propagation group now has a place at 'beautiful' Montsalvat in Eltham. The lease is signed and work has begun on the shade house and poly house.

The weather has been kind so Peter (Smith) was able to level out the shade house floor and do some work on the original frame, which was left by the market gardener. The following week, 12 of us were able to clear out the prodigious and tenacious couch grass then dig



a clearance perimeter around the edges to slow down the return of the grass. Then came laying screenings for the floor in the first frame-shade house. At our next working bee we installed the shade sheet and bird net then continued working on the poly house (2<sup>nd</sup> frame). We managed to clear up and level the floor of the poly house and in between the two areas. Then the rain started but Peter stayed on to do some more. He's now pulled most of the uprights out from the old poly house which will have to be completely rebuilt. In the interests of getting our poly and shade houses finished sooner we've decided to try working on them **every Thursday from now on**.

It's a very friendly and peaceful environment. If you would like to help please contact Peter Smith 0425 798 275 or Carmen Cooper 0413 012 045.

*I (the editor) have been involved with the Growers' Group for some time (on and off). I would like to acknowledge how much I have learnt during that time about propagating and growing Australian plants. It has been a really rewarding experience.*

*Carmen is a terrific and hardworking leader and mentor. She is very patient with and supportive of new members. She is a very skilled and passionate gardener herself, and her enthusiasm rubs off on all of us.*

*The group's relocation to Montsalvat is a positive and exciting move and is an opportune time for new members to get involved. The environment at Montsalvat is welcoming, we have access to facilities including a kitchen and there is a lovely area for eating lunch or having a cuppa. If you have some free time on Thursdays, join us!*



## VALE-Regina McDowall 31.12.1931-17.6.2022

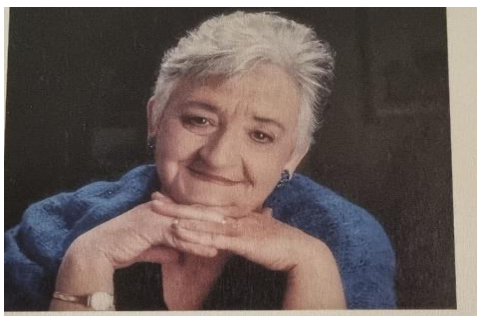


Photo provided by Mike Williams

### Mike Williams remembers a dear friend.

I have known Regina and Max for more than 30 years, from when I first went to a APS Yarra Yarra meeting. Their knowledge of Australian plants was immense.

I used to sit at home and flick through books with all these wonderful flowers from WA. So not having the confidence to trek on my own, I asked Max if he and Regina would like to come to WA with me. I got a yes! This started a lifetime of friendship and respect for the McDowalls.

So in 1999 we set off in late August, and even before we made it to the WA border, Regina was banned from picking anymore *Eremophila oppositifolia* [not by me!] Regina had this ability to see subtle changes in the colour of the flowers. Regina was a person that needed to 'know'. She would sit in the back of the car as we travelled along studying plant books, identifying plants we had seen, and more times than not she would correctly tell us what we had found. One time I found a snake curled up and she wanted to know where its head was, both Max and I didn't think we needed to know! Regina's working life was in science [microbiology]. I think this is where the need to know came from.

During our 2nd trip to WA in 2003, Regina was once again banned, this time no more *Dampieras*! As we drove along, I would deliberately pronounce a species incorrectly knowing Max would correct me, then a voice in the back would say "you are a tease".

Apart from these trip we also went on Grevillea crawls with the Grevillea study group and when I couldn't go Peter Smith became the designated driver. I am sure he would have some tales to tell!

Both Regina and Max have been very supportive with their time in regards to our flower shows and expo.

Regina was a wife, mother and grand mother and a friend to many.

We will miss her dearly.

## Treasurer's Report

### By Sue Gwilym

#### Membership Renewals

It's that time of year again, when membership payments are now due (from 1<sup>st</sup> July), so please renew as soon as possible so that you are financial before our AGM. We have attached our membership renewal form again and ask that you complete it and follow the instructions on the bottom of the form for the payment options.

#### Neutrog Orders

The Neutrog Online Store had an overhaul in May which improved the page readability and ease of use. The store is open for member only orders at great prices, and delivery is scheduled for Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. If you don't have a login yet or have any issues with ordering, please contact the Online Store Team on 08 8538 3500. I will contact you to arrange pick up once the order has arrived.

We try to do two Neutrog orders a year, so if you miss this one, the next one will be March/April next year.

#### Donations

This financial year we are proud to have contributed either funds or plants to several community projects and not-for-profit organisations that align with the purposes of our Society, particularly to promote and maintain interest in growing and propagating

Australian plants in home gardens and public places and to encourage and facilitate conservation and study of Australian plants in their natural environments. These include Monty Hub Project, John Street Project, Rainforest Rescue, VNPA, and TreeProject.

### Services Directory for Members

Do you have a business related to gardening, landscaping, tree services, garden design or running a nursery? If you do, we want to hear from you!

We'd like to put together a Services Directory for the benefit of our members and invite you to advertise your business in our newsletter, free of charge, updated and published once or twice a year. Send us your business details, logo or graphic, Facebook or website links or other relevant contact details and we'll share it with our members. It will be at Committee's discretion to ensure all advertising material is appropriate to our member's needs. Email your details or enquire further at [yarrayarra@apsvic.org.au](mailto:yarrayarra@apsvic.org.au)

### Next Meeting

**Thursday August 4**

**APS Yarra Yarra AGM will be held on Thursday 4th August at the Mummery Room, Edendale Farm at 8pm. Nomination forms, proxy forms and other reports from the last AGM will be sent out closer to time.**

**Please consider volunteering for the Committee - many hands make light work for everyone. Thanks. Cathy Mann.**

As well as the AGM, Sue Gwilym advises that the next meeting will include a presentation on garden safety, "**Protecting Yourself**" by **Colin Gould**. Colin is a long time member of APS Yarra Yarra, runs his own gardening business, and has generously offered to speak to us on how to keep our selves and our loved ones safe from harm. Colin will touch on a variety of topics and he asks if everyone could please bring some paper and a pen. We look forward

to Colin sharing his presentation with us on a topic that everyone should be paying more attention to.

## Flower Table

### Flower Table – June

#### Photos by Ben Eaton

Acacia beckleri



Banksia baueri



Banksia menziesii





*Banksia undata* syn. *Dryandra praemorsa*



*Dockrillia* sp



*Grevillea pimeleoides*



*Correa pulchella* (form unknown)



*Correa* 'Carmen'



*Hakea petiolaris* ssp *trichophylla*



Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty'



Acacia podalyriifolia



Prostanthera ringens



Acacia trigonophylla



## Flower Table – July

Photos – Rob Dunlop & Mike Ridley  
Acacia brownii



Alogyne huegelii





Banksia spinulosa



Epacris impressa



Correa 'Autumn Blaze'



Eremophila maculata



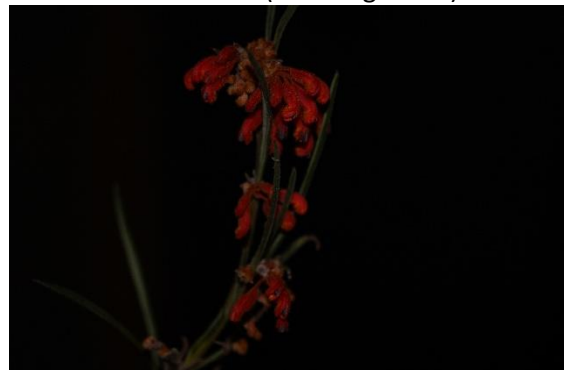
Grevillea 'Bonnie Prince Charlie'



Correa 'Lemon Twist'



Grevillea bronwenae (double grafted)





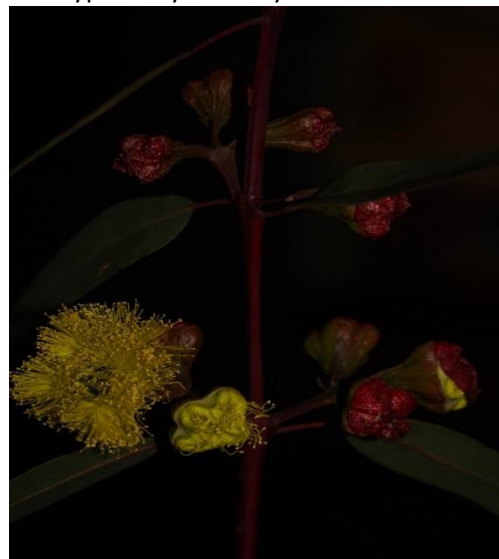
*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*



*Eremophila maculata aurea*



*Eucalyptus erythrocorys*



*Hakea multilineata*



*Hakea orthorrhyncha*



*Pimelea physodes*



## Diary Dates 2022

**23 & 24 July** – Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Winter Plant Sale, Australian Garden, Cranbourne. 10am to 4pm. Plant list available one week before sale. Free entry. Website: [rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

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

**1 September** – Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar, Pomonal. A one day in person event but may be made available online. Follow on Facebook.  
<https://www.facebook.com/wimmerabiodiversityseminar>.

**3 September** - APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale. At Wilson's Botanic Gardens, Berwick in conjunction with City of Casey Garden Expo.

**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. Registrations now open.

**24 & 25 September** – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory Christian College, Kairn Road, Strathdale, Bendigo. 9.30am to 4.00pm. \$5 entry.

**1 & 2 October** – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower show, Pomonal Hall. 9.30am – 5.00pm on Saturday, 10.00am – 4.00pm Sunday.

**8 October** – APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High St, Echuca.

**15 October** – APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo & Sale, 9am – 3pm. Memorial hall, Sydney St, Kilmore. \$2.00 entry.

**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)

**22 & 23 October** – APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gillies Street, Ballarat. 10am – 4pm.

**22 & 23 October** - Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Spring Plant Sale, Australian Garden, Cranbourne. 10am to 4pm. Plant list available one week before sale. Free entry. Website: [rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

## 2022 Speakers

**General meeting September 1 - Fabaceae Family - Pea Flowers by Mike Williams.**

**Sue Gwilym writes:**

A very timely talk, just prior to the FJC Rogers Seminar, and we are pleased to have Mike presenting on one of his favourite groups of plants. Mike will be well known to many members as he has a long and noteworthy involvement with APS Yarra, serving on our committee in various executive roles over the years, and he is also part of the APS Victoria's Growth and Development Sub-Committee, helping to establish new groups such as the recently formed Heathcote group. Mike is also busy with his own nursery business and has a vast knowledge of native plants, so this talk, given Mike's trademark humour, is not to be missed!

Mike says "I will look at some of the species that most of us can relate to. I've compiled a list of plants that are found in our area and also some that I grow in my garden. I will discuss the positives and negatives of having peas in our gardens."



## General Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> July Steve Sinclair Native Grasslands.



Photos provided by Steve Sinclair

### Report by Cathy Mann

Steve is from the Arthur Rylah Institute which does applied ecological research with an emphasis on plants, animals and biodiversity issues. For more information go to <https://www.ari.vic.gov.au/>

Steve works in the area of monitoring grassland areas to see which regimens improve the quality of these areas. He told us about the extensive grasslands which once existed to the west of Melbourne – the volcanic or basalt plains. These have very heavy but fertile clay soils, and grasslands like to grow there due to the range of nutrients.

Of course this meant that early European settlers immediately started grazing their sheep on these vast plains. Cropping soon followed and, more recently, residential development. Because the grasslands were not initially recognised as being very diverse or as interesting as other areas, the early botanists didn't give them much attention and not many species were collected then. It's a case of not really knowing what we have lost.

Steve explained the 4 stages of deterioration of a grassland. A healthy intact one is full of colourful forbs such as Goodenia, Calocephalus, Convolvulus, Eryngium, Brachyscome and Pelargonium in between a range of grass species such as Austrostipa, Rytidosperma, Themeda and Poas. There is very little of this left. As it deteriorates due to grazing, cropping etc., the forbs are overcome

and swamped by Themeda and it becomes a mainly Themeda grassland. With further deterioration, it becomes a Stipa grassland, and lastly a weed infested mess.

He explained what the Governments – state and federal - are doing to save what is left and regenerate what can be improved. They do strategic assessments of areas, allowing clearing only in defined areas and charging fees to developers or land-owners who want to clear areas. This money assists in conserving and buying up other areas which are in better condition.

Many groups are involved in this process – Parks Vic, Arthur Rylah Institute, aboriginal groups, landholders, developers etc. – with the aim being to save the best of what is left and trialling any strategies to improve degraded areas eg Steve told us they sometimes scrape the topsoil to remove the weed seed bank and to allow the native grassland plants to regenerate. Sound drastic but apparently it works!

A very interesting overview of Melbourne's precious grasslands and what is being done to save them. Thanks Steve.

## 2022 Garden Visits

**Next Garden visit – Sunday September 4 @2:00 pm at Ray and Prue Weeks, 21-23 Tacoma Street Park Orchards 3114.**

### Ray Weeks writes:

Like most gardens ours is a work in progress. It reflects both my plant interests (Vireyas, Tillandsias, Australian Orchids, Correas, Prostantheras, Eremophilas, Hakeas, Grevilleas), plant sources, available time, various climatic events (millennium drought) and soil (there is little on top of clay). Tree mulch has been used to try reduce the need for

supplementary watering and soil improvement.

The basic framework of the garden design, driveway and rock placements around the house were done by Meryl Webb, and Peter Smith did the earthworks in the 1980s. Peter has done some additional work recently. The house was built in 1980 by Merchant Builders with an extension added in 2000.

The plants are a mix of primarily Australian Natives (original site had light cover of mature Eucalypts most which have been retained) with the addition of a number of South African Aloes, Tillandsias, Vriesias, Quesnelias, Puyas and Dykia. The Xanthoreas (X minor & X australis) in the driveway were all grown from seed collected 30+ years ago in the Grampians so it will be a few years before they grow trunks.

During the droughts around the turn of the century various Aloes and plants with low water needs were planted mostly from cuttings and pigface was added to fill in gaps and provide Spring colour. The house has its own dedicated treatment plant which pumps the purified effluent around the garden on programmed cycle. After establishment supplementary watering is not provided.

### **Joyce Garden, Sunday July 3 Templestowe.**

#### **Report by Peter Smith**

There was dejavu for me on our July garden visit. Fifty years back, in my first real job, I had the good fortune to work on Fred Neal's orchard in Templestowe. Some of the trees we tended were on this land. Yarra Yarra member Jenny Drummond and Waverly member Mirini Lang's crew now tend the garden of Liana and Colin Joyce, who have lived here for 30 years or so. Paul Thompson designed and constructed this lovely Australian garden.

Warm sunshine took the chill off the air as the troop of Yarra, Waverly and Maroondah

members meandered down the driveway to be greeted by Liana, Colin and their dog Bella.

Winter flowering Swan River pea (*Gastrolobium celsianum*) and Rose She-oaks had marked the entrance. Colin gave us a brief story of the garden and described how the now bare White Cedars (*Melia azederach*) were a wonderful display of lilacs giving off a delightful scent when flowering in the springtime, and gave great shade in the summer. He drew our attention to the first flowers appearing on the firewheel tree (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*), and the developing trunk of the Leopardwood (*Flindersia maculosa*). Down by the now dry creek area, a large *Banksia marginata* had caught our attention with masses of *Bulbine bulbosa* below. Large Granite rocks accentuated the scene.

We then followed the Joyces to the back yard, passing by some *Correas* (*baeuerlinii*) and a lovely *Lasiopetalum*. *Xanthorrhoea* then grabbed our attention...Lots and distinctive...some 400 years plus in age with multiple trunks, and some grown from seed, all flowering frequently and drawing droves of insect and bird life. As we drew breath, we looked out below to take in the serenity of some lovely white trunked eucalypts and the local bush blending in with this remarkable Australian garden.

Thank you again to Liana and Colin for sharing it with us.

#### **Photos of the day by Sonia Gatti**



Meeting up in front driveway for briefing.





Front entrance with dry pebble 'river bed'



More grass trees



Peter, Rob & Carmen in front of Banksia 'Giant Birthday Candles' situated near pool.



View from terrace over back garden with beautiful Eucalyptus mannifera.



400 + year old Xanthorrhoea grass tree



View from terrace over back garden with pond.





Close up of pond



Back garden

### Wanderslore Sanctuary Fungi Foray, 19 June, Launching Place

Photos by Sue Gwilym (first 3)

*Cortinarius archeri*



*Porpolomopsis lewellinae*



*Clavulinopsis filiformis*



### Report by Peter Smith

Cold morning, sun shining,... fresh air , the odd bike rider tackling the Warburton Trail, here close to the Yarra River. Who would have imagined the bounteous life within this Trust for Nature Bush Sanctuary?

Steve Fernlee (Friends of Wanderslore) had waited for us in the former railway building above while we waited and chatted below. Connecting, we were warmly welcomed and heard the story of Constance Coleman, who had inherited this bush block with its fishing shack , made it her home, painted in this building (her studio), and devoted her income to acquiring adjoining blocks, all of which she bequeathed as a bush sanctuary.

Meanwhile the Field Naturalists Group ,who had kindly included us in their Fungi Foray, had gathered outside. Again they welcomed us and outlined some of their procedures to explore and witness this amazing world...

The large party soon broke up into smaller groups and Sonia, Fiona and I were with a few



others trailing behind Richard Hartland and his dog Clancy. We were soon absorbed into this incredible Kingdom of Fungi, larger than the Kingdom of Plants... myriads of Mycenae from ghostly whites through to shades of yellow, grey and green, yellow earth buttons, purple Emperor cortinarius, Russula, Amanita, orange ping pong bats (an unwanted exotic invader), hair like rhizomorphs with minute capitate tips. All shapes, all colours (sometimes changing), tiny, large, fungi specific to wallaby dung, parasitic, translucent, viscid, glutinous, jellies, corals, flames. The adjectives abound but then fall short.

How lucky and thankful we were to experience a small part of the natural world, "Wanderslore", the legacy of Constance Coleman.

*I (editor) totally concur with Peter, our excursion to Wanderslore was magical. For those of you who have not as yet been, it is well worth the effort. For a small reserve it packs a punch. Steve Fernlee (Friends of Wanderslore) informed us that some of the species of fungi found at Wanderslore are so rare, they are only found at one other known place in the world. The sanctuary attracts worldwide scientific interest.*

### Photos of the day by Sonia Gatti

Steve Fernlee briefing our group in the old railway station building before our foray



Purple Emperor - Cortinarius archeri



Cortinarius rotundisporus



Hygrocybe cheelii





Amanita ananiceps ?



Russula sp



Toothed Jelly fungus



Earthstar



## Bruce Schroder garden, Montrose, 20<sup>th</sup> May

### Report and photos by Sue Gwilym

On a lovely Autumn day, six of our members visited the garden of Bruce and Jill Schroder in Montrose. They bought the house in 1988 and began to establish the garden, which is on a sloping site of just under an acre, sitting due north and not prone to frosts. Sited opposite the Dandenong Ranges National Park it was mostly an original bush block with *Eucalyptus goniocalyx* and *E. macrorhyncha* being the dominant overstory trees, but over the years many of the original trees have died or have fallen (including on the house).

They tried to establish a WA garden under an established Eucalypt, but over the years the tree canopy grew, and the area became less suitable. Tree ferns are still evident and self sow themselves. Sandy paths wind through the garden beds at the front framed by synthetic rocks, which Bruce made himself, which have naturalised and blend beautifully with the dense plantings. The linked ponds made from synthetic rock material were a real feature – perfect frog habitat amongst the Nardoo (*Marsilea drummondii*) and the imposing *Brachychiton rupestris*.

Bruce would class himself as a plant collector rather than a gardener and the large back garden is testament to his wide-ranging passion for plants and bulbs, from Australia and other parts of the world. Many of the exotic plants were in pots, growing happily in the extensive propagating and shade house area or along the decking, where we also enjoyed afternoon tea watching the sun setting below the tree canopy.

Some of the other plants we saw included: *Persoonia pinifolia* (still self-seeding 10 years after being removed, but in general they are difficult to propagate due to the large deep tap root that forms, which doesn't like to be disturbed. If transplanted, 2 out of 100 might live), *Micromyrtus leptocalyx*, *Xanthorrhoea* 'Supergrass' (it was 10 years old before it flowered), *Crocea* 'Bindelong Compact', *Grevillea leptobotrys*, *Grevillea nana ssp nana*



*x tenuiloba* 'Thorny Devil', *Banksia* 'Birthday Candles', *Eremophila cuneifolia* x *fraseri*, *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* 'Burrendong' (a small form of unknown locality originally from materials sent by Burrendong Arboretum), *Kunzea pulchella*

Garden path with handmade rocks



*Kunzea pulchella*



## On the Grapevine...

*Grevillea leptobotrys*



*Banksia* 'Birthday Candles'



### John Street Road Reserve Project Report and photos by Sue Gwilym

A small pocket park at the end of John Street has recently received an upgrade from weed infested dustbowl to landscaped indigenous garden with Nillumbik Shire working with designer Sam Cox

(<https://samcoxlandscape.com/>) and local volunteers.

The look was inspired by the natural style of Australian landscape designer Gordon Ford who lived in John Street and whose garden, 'Füllung' was often open to the public as an iconic bush garden. Sam Cox was an apprentice with Gordon Ford and the natural style also flows through his work, blending earthwork, rock placement and layering of native plants. There are plans to rename the reserve in honour of Gordon Ford and his legacy, being at the forefront of a garden design revolution creating Australian natural style gardens.

Yarra contributed funds to purchase 65 tubes of grasses from Edendale Indigenous Nursery for part of the revegetation works to be completed by Sam Cox's crew, local residents and volunteers.



Photos showing the reserve before and after groundwork completed ready for planting.



**Donation to Monty Community Hub bush garden. Cathy Mann reports:**

APS Yarra has donated a \$200 gift voucher from Edendale Farm nursery for indigenous plants for the bush garden at the Monty Hub.

For those who are not aware, the Community Hub is at the corner of Mountain View Rd and Rattray Rd, Montmorency. A former church and kinder site (designed and built by Alastair Knox), it was purchased by a large group of community members for a multi-purpose, inclusive and sustainable community hub.

The group is busy refurbishing and repairing the buildings and planting up the garden in preparation for opening it to the community. If you would like to know more or get

involved go to:

<https://sites.google.com/view/montyhubproject/>

**Miriam's Mints on Gardening Australia!**



Photo provided by Miriam Ford

APS Yarra member Miriam Ford's collection of prostantheras will feature on the ABC's Gardening Australia TV program on the 26 August. Don't miss it!

**Selfies by Mike Williams and Miriam Ford**

The Australian Plant Society has many creative and talented gardeners within its ranks. One of our very own, Mike Williams is certainly one. Mike grows and propagates plants and is an independent plant seller within the APS YY group and, as many of you probably know, also sells plants via his Facebook page which is full of spectacular plant pictures and information. As a result of some recent posts on the amazing amount of self-seeding that is taking place in his garden - who needs to bother with cuttings when this kind of success happens – I suggested to Mike that he and I might want to collaborate on a piece for the APS YY news and also Growing Australian as I think it is good for people to know about what conditions might predispose to these happy events and thereby increase one's stock of available plants fairly effortlessly.

Mike Williams: *I think most of the self - seeding is from having sand and sandy loam soils. Also I've been using 9mm pine bark which has reduced to almost growing media. Plants that have been coming up in abundance include the following: Grevillea flexuosa & lanigera, Crowea exalata, Hibbertia dentate, Hovea longifolia, Kennedia beckxiana, Kunzea jucunda, Lasiopetalum sp & others. Other plants like Actinotis heliantha and Philotheca verrucosus have also seeded. Some seeds have been dispersed away from the original plant, this has happened with Eremophila debilis and Hibbertia dentata. Hovea longifolia seems to germinate in the loam soils. The best find was Sida petrophila as I was having trouble with cuttings. As both Correa 'Marion's Marvel' and Grevillea 'Colloroy Plateau' are hybrids, their seedlings are different but not by much. My question is do seedlings revert to one of the parent species or are they a totally new plant?*

*Kennedia beckxiana took a good number of years to germinate, there are at least 4 separate plants now. I also have one coming up in the front garden and will need to wait and see what species that is as I haven't had Kennedia's there before. There are some species I treat as weeds e.g. Linum marginale, Bulbine semibarbata, and Viola hederacea which are very numerous, I leave just a few for show.*

Well enough said. Clearly some of our propagation woes can be solved by setting up best self-seeding conditions in our gardens. I have only a few examples from my own garden – Grevillea flexuosa being one, not so many as Mike. Perhaps I had better look more closely from now on. Best queue up for many of the above at Mike's stall at the APS YY Expo coming soon.

Photos by Mike Williams



Grevillea flexuosa



Hovea longifolia

#### **And finally a message from Jill Lulham!**

For those of you using **Facebook**, have you checked these **native flora & fauna pages and groups** out:

- Australian Native Plant Enthusiasts forum
- Victorian Indigenous Gardeners
- Indigenous Flora of Melbourne
- Australian Native Plants
- Field Naturalists Club of Victoria
- Victorian Birders
- Wildflowers of Melbourne
- Grevilleas Q & A
- Banksia Lovers Group
- Old Man Emu Bush
- Correa Lovers
- Nuts about Gums
- Australian Daisies and their Allies
- Eucalypt Australia Community
- Australian Native Plant Noticeboard & Marketplace
- Australian Native Plants & Bush Tucker

Plus all the APS Group and district pages, including Wildflower Society of Western Australia, Native Plants Queensland, and Top End Native Plant Society. (All have Facebook pages)

Search for these pages/groups within Facebook and you will be surprised at the wealth of information there. A few are private



groups that you will have to "Join" before you can see the posts (but it doesn't cost anything - usually you answer a few questions to ensure you are bona fide).

## **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 **September 5 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

Thank you to Graeme Sparkes and Cathy Mann  
for proof reading.

**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://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: Mummery 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.

*We acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung  
people as the Traditional Owners of the  
country on which we meet, we pay our  
respects to Elders past, present and future and  
extend that respect to all First Nations Peoples.*