



AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY Yarra Yarra Group Inc.

(Incorporation No: A0039676Y)

Newsletter November – December 2022



Hello Everyone,

I'm stepping in as temporary Newsletter Editor for this edition, as Sonia gathers her thoughts following an epic trip, which we hope to hear more of next year. Personally, I hope Sonia will agree to give us a talk on her travels so we can all share in the adventure (hint, hint).

As I sit and type this in mid-November, the rain has not stopped all day. The forecast for a wet Summer has certainly started early and our thoughts are with our members, and the community in general, who have been affected by the recent (and ongoing) floods.

As this is a bi-monthly publication, we also want to wish everyone a safe and happy festive season and we look forward to seeing you all at our end of year celebration on Sunday 4th December at 1.00pm (no evening meeting). An email with details has already been sent out, but further details of this event and our first meeting of 2023, which will be a get together on Sunday 5th February (no meeting in January), can be found on page 2.

Best Wishes, Sue Gwilym

Committee News

Committee has sadly received the resignation of Mike Williams from his role as Vice President. We thank Mike for all his hard work and dedication to our group. We also welcome Andrew McCann who has joined as a General Committee Member and we look forward to working with Andrew on the team.

Welcome to Our New Members

A warm welcome to our new members— Jenni Rusciano, Ilksin Hart and Suganthi Sivasubramaniam, who joined us recently. We hope you all enjoy being part of our group and we look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. Let us know if we can assist with anything in the meantime.



Meetings, Garden Visits, & Diary Dates

General Meetings Coming Up:

December - No Meeting, see Outing instead

January - No Meeting

February 2023 - No Meeting, see Outing instead

March 2nd, 2023 - Travelogue & Outcomes from the ANPSA Conference, Kiama - by Miriam Ford

April 6th, 2023 - Thomasia & Allied Genera by Trevor Blake

Garden Visits & Outings Coming Up:

December 4th - Sunday End of Year Celebration At Wycliffe Bible Translators, **70 Graham Road, Kangaroo Ground (Mel 271 C10) at 1.00pm.**

There will be covered seating in the Rotunda, but feel free to bring your own chair if you wish. The group will provide finger food and drinks. Roy and Janet will also show us around the grounds where they have been busy on even more projects. There will be plenty of parking, and signs on the road in. There will be raffle prizes on the day so please bring coins for the purchase of tickets. *Please phone Peter to RSVP on 0425 798 275.*

January - No Garden Visit/Outing

February 5th 2023 - Sunday Get Together at **Montsalvat, 7 Hillcrest Ave, Eltham, at 1.00pm**
The Growers Group has been working hard to get the new propagation area at Montsalvat up and running, so we'd like to invite everyone to come and see the progress and find out more about what they've been up to in a social setting. BYO picnic lunch and drinks. Further details to be confirmed.

Committee are currently planning the group's itinerary for next year, so any suggestions for speakers, garden visits or outings are most welcome.

APS Victoria Dates:

November 26th - Committee of Management Meeting, commencing 10.00am at Iramoo Grasslands Centre, Building 1J, McKechnie Street, St Albans. Mel 25 K3. Hosted by APS Keilor Plains.

Plant Sales:

25-26th March 2023 - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfriendscanbourne.org.au

1st April 2023 – APS Geelong

Australian Native Plant Sale, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks. 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

22nd April 2023 - APS Yarra Yarra

Autumn Plant Sale, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham. 10 am – 4 pm.

29th April 2023 - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale. 10 am to 3 pm. The Briars, Mt Martha.

13th May 2023 – APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. 9am to 1pm. The venue is expected to be St Andrews Uniting Church at Bacchus Marsh, to be confirmed.

Other Dates:

29th March to 2nd April 2023 – Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS), Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building. Website: <https://melbflowershow.com.au>

September 9th - 10th 2023 - APS Yarra Yarra

Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham. 10am to 4pm.



Callistemon 'Father Christmas'



Meeting Report 1st September – Fabaceae by Mike Williams

Report by Sue Gwilym, pictures by Mike Williams

Apologies to Mike, this should have been in the last edition, but we shall make amends now. Thanks to Mike for the very timely talk which preceded the 14th FJC Rogers Seminar, Fabulous Peas.

The Fabaceae family covers 135 genera and 1,100 species so Mike wanted to look at some of the species that most of us could relate to. Some of the more commonly known genera include Aotus, Chorizema, Crotalaria, Daviesia, Dillwynia, Eutaxia, Gastrolobium, Glycine, Gompholobium, Goodia, Hardenbergia, Hovea, Isotropis, Indigofera, Jacksonia, Kennedia, Mirbelia, Oxylobium, Pultenaea, Sphaerolobium, Swainsonia, Templetonia, and Urodon.

Mike also discussed the positives and negatives of having peas in our gardens and one of the big positives is their ability to fix nitrogen through their root nodules. In low nitrogen conditions they form symbiotic relationships with bacteria that enable them to gather the available nitrogen for use by the plant, which also benefits neighbouring plants.

Mike ran through the flower structure and also some basic identification, based on the number of stamen they can be placed into one of three groups. For starters, all flowers have 10 stamen. In Group 1, all stamen are free to their base, examples are Chorizema, Daviesia, Dillwynia, Mirbelia, and Pultenaea. In Group 2, all stamen are joined together for the major part of their length, examples are Bossiaea, Goodia, Hovea, Platyllobium and Templetonia. In Group 3, nine of the ten stamens are joined one is free for its entire length, examples are Glycine, Hardenbergia, Indigofera, Kennedia, Lotus, and Swainsona.

Mike listed some of the local peas and then showed slides of the peas he's growing or has grown in the past, and as Mike has a soft spot for peas, there were quite a lot of them, all of them amazing.

Thanks Mike for a great overview of what can be achieved growing peas locally.

Pictured top to bottom: *Dillwynia juniperina*,
Gompholobium scabrum, *Hovea acanthoclada*





Garden Visit Report – 2nd October with Bob & Dot O’Neill

Report by Peter Smith, pictures by Sue Gwilym

On this lovely, warm October Sunday, Dot and Bob O’Neill welcomed us to their now maturing “Yallaroo Gardens” at Narre Warren South. Along with some of the usual crew, Jill had brought along her Canberra based daughter and two grandchildren. Young Ben was well armed with a camera and a developing interest in the world around him.

Bob gave us a brief background to this one-acre garden started back in 2010. As with all real gardens, it hasn’t all been smooth sailing. After much removal work (including large Cypress trees) and the initial planting and mulching, there came a wet winter and lots of losses caused by the high water table - Start Again! Many truckloads of soil, re-planting, re-mulching. Almost all lawn areas vanished, the large, covered orchard area developed, beds and pathways took shape, and a “distinct informal bush atmosphere now prevails.”



Dot and Bob propagate their own plants, and whilst Bob’s main passion is for Correas, and Dot’s is Grevilleas (particularly standards), the range and variety is amazing. Bob proudly states that they have plants originating from all states and territories in their garden. Notable amongst the larger trees were the now developing Bottle Trees (*Brachychiton rupestris*), which Bob fertilises and waters regularly during summer, *Angophora hispida*, *Eucalyptus albopurpurea*, *Corymbia ficifolia* (red-flowering gum) and *Corymbia eximea* (yellow Bloodwood), and various Banksia species. Dot’s standard Grevilleas were a sight to see...



Our small group had broken up as we were drawn in all directions, so diverse and full of interest is this garden. As gardeners we could understand Bob emphasising that this “was not intended as show garden... it is a home garden”. As we shared our tea, biscuits and stories, and Dot and Bob shared the fruit from their orchard as well as their knowledge, we understood that we are not competing for a prize but rather learning, sharing and through some hard work - enjoying. As I was leaving, Bob reminded me that all of us were welcome at any time, just let them know beforehand.



Pictured top to bottom: *Grevillea* 'Lemon Daze' grafted standard on the left with emu sculpture made by Bob & Dot’s son, *Leptospermum* 'Jubilee', *Dampiera altissima* 'Sterling Silver'



Meeting Report 6th October – Grand Flower Table

Report by Sue Gwilym, pictures by Ben Eaton (BE), Rob Dunlop & Mike Ridley (DC)

Thank you to everyone who brought along flower specimens, we had an overflowing table, and we couldn't get to review all of them. Below are some of the ones we did get to look at on the night:



Acacia glaucoptera (BE)



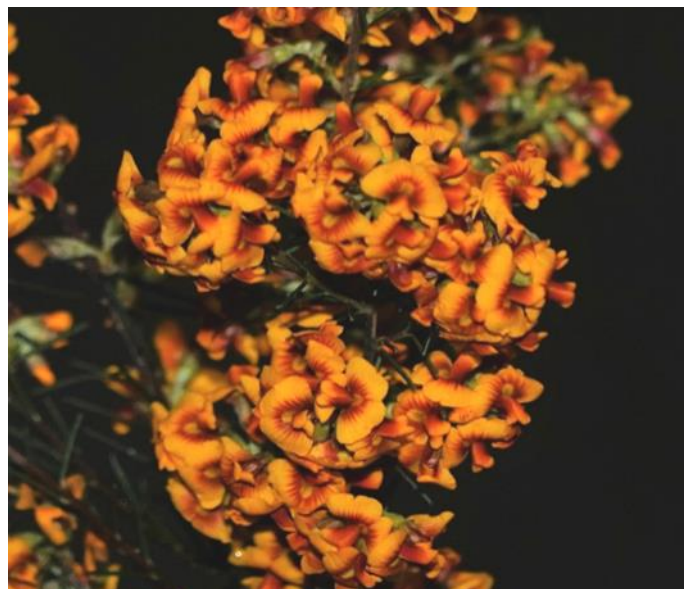
Anigozanthus 'Masquerade' (BE)



Banksia praemorsa yellow (DC)



Coopernookia georgei (BE)



Dillwynia sericea (BE)



Dryandra Formosa (BE)



Eremophila 'Beryl's Blue' (DC)



Geleznovia verrucosa (DC)



Grevillea alpina high camp form (BE)



Grevillea delisiana (BE)



Grevillea 'Winpara Gold' (BE)



Hakea purpurea (DC)



Hypocalymma angustifolium (DC)



Hardenbergia comptoniana (BE)



Isopogon anemonifolius (BE)



Hibbertia stellaris (BE)



Kennedia prostrata (BE)



Kennedia retrorsa (BE)



Waratah 'Shady Lady' (DC)



Melaleuca leptospermoides (BE)



Melaleuca micromera (BE)

Other plants featured:

Asterolasia asteriscophora, *Banksia praemorsa burgundy*, *Banksia spinulosa*, *Boronia* sp, *Bossiaea aquifolium*, *Callistemon 'Adina'*, *Calytrix tetragona*, *Chorizema varium*, *Correa 'Country Bells'*, *Dryandra polycephala*, *Eremophila amulata*, *Eremophila aureivisca*, *Eremophila mirabilis*, *Eremophila waitii*, *Grevillea fastigiata*, *Grevillea lavandulacea*, *Grevillea triloba*, *Grevillea 'Winpara Gem'*, *Hakea bucculenta*, *Hakea trifurcata*, *Hibbertia empetrifolia*, *Isopogon formosus*, *Kunzea affinis*, *Lasiopetalum behrii*, *Lasiopetalum schulzenii*, *Leionema elatius ssp beckleri*, *Melaleuca fulgens salmon*, *Melaleuca trichophylla*, *Olearia phlogopappa white*, pink and purple, *Olearia ramulosa*, *Olearia teretifolia*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, *Phebalium nottii dark pink*, *Prostanthera 'Crocodile Mint'*, *Prostanthera teretifolia*, *Pseudanthus pimeleoides*, *Swainsona galegifolia*, *Thomasia purpurea*, *Thomasia triphylla*



Queen’s Jubilee Tree Planting Project – 14th October

Report and photos by Miriam Ford

Sue Gwilym and I attended the local launch of this program at the Eltham Men’s Shed on Friday 14th October. It turned out to a lovely sunny morning after the night’s deluge that led to so much flooding. APS Yarra Yarra will provide people & expertise support for the planting of 1,000 trees when it takes place next Autumn. Our previous attempt to support this effort was stymied by COVID restrictions last year.

The Federal Government has \$15.1 million to be distributed to community groups Australia wide for tree planting over the next year. There are 14 different organisations (of which we are one) in the Nillumbik shire assisting in this endeavour of restoration and reconstruction of the tree canopy in the Eltham to Diamond Creek corridor. One of the 7 focus themes of Rotary is support of the environment & sustainability and the Rotary Club of Eltham is organising this particular arm of the project.

Several representatives of the Australian Government, Kate Thwaites MP JagaJaga, Keith Wolahan MP Menzies & several Nillumbik Councillors including Frances Eyre (Mayor), were present and a ceremonial unveiling of the plaque and planting of 3 large Eucalypts (*E. melliodora* & *E. polyanthemos*) took place in the somewhat soggy soil. Fortunately the Eltham Men’s Shed people had laid out hard plastic tracks and synthetic grass carpet runners to maintain the dignitaries’ dignity in accessing the shovels and doing the obligatory photoshoot.

This was then followed by a great morning tea with lots of conviviality and conversation back at the Men’s Shed (opposite the North Eltham Primary School). This was a most enjoyable launch where the speeches were kept brief and engaging. Congratulations to the Men’s Shed for such a well-run event especially in light of the previous night & early morning rain deluge.



Pictured left, the Diamond Creek in flood at Wattletree Rd Bridge (pic. Sue G.). Above top, Kevin Wollahan MP, Nillumbik Mayor Frances Eyre and Kate Thwaites MP unveil the plaque. Above bottom, Jim from Men’s Shed, Councillor Natalie Duffy, Miriam and Sue.



The 14th FJC Rogers Seminar, Fabulous Peas – 15-16th October

Report by Miriam Ford, photos by Miriam Ford & Sue Gwilym

This weekend seminar is an APS Victoria event and is hosted by a different state District Group every two years. The Seminar series began in 1996 in honour of Fred Rogers and APS Yarra Yarra hosted the previous one to this in 2020 on the *Australian Mint Bushes and Allied Genera*. This, the 14th FJC Rogers Seminar entitled *Fabulous Peas* and hosted by APS Maroondah over October 15 & 16 was a great success.

I enjoyed the weekend which was well attended by our members - Peter Smith & Diane Hedin, Sue Gwilym, Suzie Gordon, Jill Lulham, Nada Cunningham, Roula Pappos, Pat Anderson, Jenny Hedley, Fiona Williams, Ray Weeks, Charles Young, Julie & Kahn Franke to my memory & others from Victoria & interstate. The Saturday started with the early morning registration and a plant sale at 8.15 am at the York on Lilydale just down the road from Kuranga, Mt Evelyn. There was a huge array of pea species available, and the plant sellers were busy.

The lecture series began with Marilyn Bull who gave us a *Guide to Identifying the Genera of the Fabioideae subfamily within the Fabaceae family – Gompholobium* (Wedge-peas), *Mirbelia*, *Chorizema* (Flame Peas), *Podolobium* (Shaggy-peas), *Oxylobium*, *Jacksonia*, *Pultenaea*, *Gastrolobium*, *Dillwynia*, *Daviesia* & *Viminaria*, to name a few. Each participant was given a printed copy of a simplified key written by Marilyn & illustrated by George Stolfo (this is the team that wrote *The Flora of Melbourne*, a must for your bookshelf).

Then there was a Keynote address by Professor Mike Crisp on the *Egg & Bacon Peas*, followed by Dr Julie Ardley who spoke about *Legume Rhizobia Symbiosis* (these, Rhizobia, are the little bugs in those nodules on the roots that help peas fix nitrogen – we couldn't do without them).

Other presenters for the day included Mandy Thomson (from the RBG Cranbourne Garden) followed by Royce Raleigh who spoke on aspects of *Horticulture & Cultivation of Peas* and the day was concluded with *Peas in Art* – the representations of the Sturt Desert Pea are vast and various - by John Thompson.

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Hardenbergia comptoniana at Karwarra Gardens (MF)



The 14th FJC Rogers Seminar, Fabulous Peas – 15-16th October

Report by Miriam Ford, photos by Miriam Ford & Sue Gwilym

Kuranga Nursery stayed open late just for us and so many participants visited at the end of the day to take advantage of the venue being available – we left loaded up with more plants, myself included. I believe I learnt much about the fabulous peas and I suppose the proof will be in my ability to ID some of them in the future. I think the Key will come in handy.

On Sunday morning we gathered again early in the carpark to catch our buses to 4 gardens – 2 before and 2 after lunch - Marilyn Bull, Montrose; Maranoa Gardens, Karwarra Gardens (where we could purchase more plants and did!) & Bev Fox’s lovely garden in The Basin. All the gardens were putting on a great show of peas and many other species, there was colour and abundance everywhere & it was clear that everyone enjoyed these visits immensely in great weather.

To the organising Committee of Alison Rogers, Peter Rogers, Bill Aitchison, Sue Guymer, Marilyn Bull, Bev Fox & Alison Fisher, thank you and congratulations on a wonderful seminar. Thanks also to the helpful staff & our informative guides at the public Gardens.



Bus Group 2 at Marilyn Bull’s garden (MF)



Pultenaea villosa at Maranoa Gardens (SG)



Bus Group 1 at Bev Fox’s garden (SG)



Outing Report – 23rd October with Julie & Kahn Franke

Report by Peter Smith

The Glory of the Bush, or How Fragile is our World, or Where did our Garden Go?

Going to Julie and Kahn Franke's at Kangaroo Ground was a mixed experience...this was almost unspoiled bushland. The day was a bit on the dull side - probably best, for if the sun was out there would have been more happening. The peas, daisies and *Ozothamnus* drew us in from the road. The Chocolate Lillies (*Arthropodium strictum*), Milkmaids (*Burchardia umbellata*), Wax-lip orchids (YY emblem *Glossodia major*) and Early Nancies (*Wurmbea dioica*) held us, and we gingerly followed as Julie and Kahn identified the other wonders below.

This was Box Ironbark Forest: not much soil (skeletal), but lots happening. We'd missed the *Epacris*, *Hardenbergias*, and many orchids, but more were underway. I could not keep up as everyone zeroed in... Orchids with their pollinators busy. Other treasures too Black's Goodenia (*Goodenia blackiana*), *Pimelea*, *Stackhousia*, Love Creepers (*Comesperma volubile*) amongst the grasses and *Spyridium*...Blue Stars, a new one to me - *Chamaescilla corymbosa*.

Kahn explained how the several fenced off areas protected plants from rabbits, deer, wallabies and kangaroos. Our remnant bushland teeters as different problems bear down on the precious little left.

We wandered a fair way on this day, but eventually withdrew. Julie and Kahn's lovely house and garden drew us back somehow to our own reality. Over a cup of tea, we pondered over Kevin's Question on what will happen in the future?

Kahn's answer was not optimistic.



Chamaescilla corymbosa

Lower storey, small tufted perennial herb with slender tubers 2-3m long. Flowers August to November with upright branched terminal clusters of 2-10 bright blue flowers to 15mm wide. Petals have 3 prominent veins. Each flower lasts one day. Grows in moist to seasonally wet alluvial soils in woodland and heathland. Prefers full sun, semi shade.

Ref: [Yarra Ranges Council Local Plant Directory](#)



Meeting Report 3rd November – Strap-leaved plants: variety and function by Chris Larkin

Report by Cathy Mann, picture by Chris Larkin

Chris introduced us to the wide variety of these plants and their uses in the garden. According to the Flora of Melbourne strap-leaved plants encompass grasses, lilies and irises, rushes and aquatic and semi-aquatic plants sedges.

Chris spoke of them in her own broad categories:

1. Grasses – often grown for form not flower and including the *Dianellas*, *Lomandras*, chocolate and vanilla lilies, Patersonias, Bulbines, *Diplarrena* (these can be hard to tell apart from the *Dietes* from South Africa, but Chris had a tip - their flowers are held above the foliage unlike *Dietes*). *Lomandras* have a huge variety of species, about 50, and there is one for every spot in the garden. They are dioecious meaning they have male or female flowers on separate plants. Some are fine leaved, *L. fluviatilis* has a drooping flower stalk, *L. multiflora* is half the size of longifolia and is very floriferous, *L. glauca* is a small grey-leaved form, *L. nana* is great in amongst rocks; and they foil the blackbirds!



2. Pretties – more colourful flowers

Orthrosanthus laxus – bluey-purple flower and different forms

Libbertia paniculata – from NSW, semi-shade

Dianella longifolia – clumping and *D. caerulea* – can be a coloniser and may need controlling

Stypandra glauca – for dry areas

Anigozanthus flavidus – kangaroo paw; do need a bit of moisture, can be cut to ground level at Easter

Pycnosorus globosus – billy buttons

3. Less commonly grown – recommendations:

Conostylis aculeata (yellow) and *C. candicans* (grey-leaved)

Crinum (swamp lily) – will grow at the base of trees

Doryanthes excelsa (Gynea lily) and *D. palmeri* – best grown in amongst trees

Cordyline stricta – can be cut back each year

Xanthorrhoea - grass trees

Baloskion – tassel-cord rush; for pond surrounds

Lepidosperma - sedges

Triglochin – water ribbons for ponds

Why use them?

They provide nesting material and habitat for animals and lizards, food source, shelter, filtration for water habitat, and diversity. They are useful for doing different jobs in the garden and have a relaxed form. Chris showed us a photo of a scrub wren’s nest in her garden showing all the different plant material it had used for the nest. She also had a New Holland honeyeater nesting in a cordyline.

They look natural and are good for softening edges and they can be used formally too.

They make great edging plants for ponds, paths etc. and they can punctuate a journey along a path if you use the same plant at intervals. They can also be feature plants e.g. Gynea lily and *Xanthorrhoeas*.

They are suitable for pot culture and can be planted under trees and in amongst rocks.

All in all a most useful group of plants. Thank you Chris.



Garden Visit Report – 13th November with Chris Larkin

Report by Peter Smith, pictures by Miriam Ford

After listening to a comprehensive and inspiring talk by Chris on strap leaf plants at our November meeting, I ventured out with a substantial number of Yarra Yarra and a couple of Foothills members to Chris Larkin's place at Lysterfield... What a joy! We'd hit a lovely warm November day, and Chris was eager, as usual, to share her experience.

Having spent most of my working life in gardens, sometimes under the banner of landscape gardener, I was aware of Chris' involvement with the APS Landscape Design Study Group. First of all, as we emerged from the Sheoak forest, was the wonderful view framed by some beautiful, mature white-trunked *Eucalypts*. On an enlarged acre on a steepish block there was plenty of space. Chris talked of the ongoing development of the garden, from the setting up with landscaper Roger Stone, through initial plantings, further ground work with Tom Orton, altering the slope and pathways to catch and hold, or direct the water. The pathways crisscrossed the block with no need for steps. Larger *Grevilleas* had been removed to open up areas and reveal the view. The pathways and the garden were heavily mulched, weeds made redundant, with bright *Hibbertias* and *Dampieras* repeated down the track, with of course *Lomandra* and *Orthrosanthus* along the way. The mid storey featured varied foliage plants with some unusual *Dodonaea* and several *Thomasia*. Her fruit trees were doing well too. Some *Isopogon anethifolius* drew attention, a tough one.



Down towards the house, with several *Pomaderris* doing a great job of screening, some lovely large *Eucalyptus mannifera* were again a feature. A couple of mature *Persoonia pinifolia* hung over a large mat of *Pultenaea pedunculata* flowering profusely. The pond by the house had a couple of *Kunzea ambigua* flowering with their heady scent and *Prostanthera scutellarioides* and *P. denticulata* were also flowering. *Thryptomene* and *Baeckea* would do likewise at different times.

We paused briefly on the deck before setting off to the lower garden. Chris told us about the Bracket Fungus now affecting (and eventually killing) some of her *Eucalypts*. More strappies (*Anigozanthos*, *Thelionema*, *Diets robinsoniana*) and *Xerochrysum*, peas, *Ozothamnus*, some of her favourite *Hakeas* including *H. pycnoneura*, *H. scoparia*, *H. elliptica* and *H. clavata*.

Chris was living up to her former teacher self, and we were learning as we went along. Back up to the house for a well deserved cuppa and more stories. Many thanks to Chris and those who came along for an altogether enjoyable outing... Surely room for a GyMEA or three.



Flower Table Report 3rd November

Report by Sue Gwilym, pictures by Ben Eaton (BE), Rob Dunlop & Mike Ridley (DC)

Thanks to Miriam Ford for running the flower table discussion and to Ben Eaton, Rob Dunlop and Mike Ridley for photography. Thanks also to the members who volunteered to help out with learning the multimedia roles so Rob and Mike can eventually take a well earned rest - Andrew McCann, Rob Cooper and Anita Bourke. Peter and the attending members thanked Rob and Mike for their many years of service and dedication to making sure our meetings ran smoothly.



Chamelaucium ciliatum 'Albany Blush' (BE)



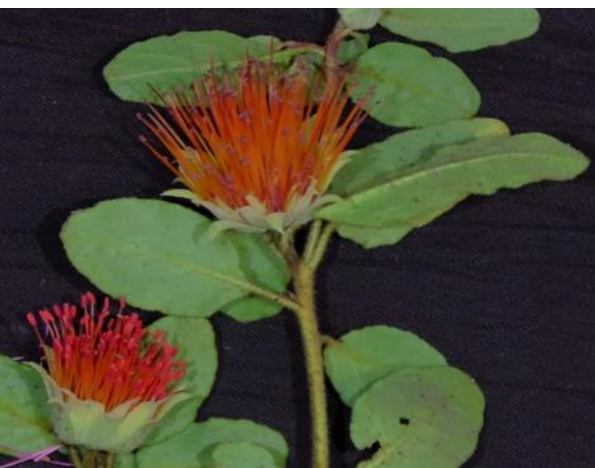
Eremophila 'Wendy' (BE)



Correa 'Big Bob' (DC)



Grevillea treueriana (BE)



Diplolaena dampieri (DC)

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Flower Table Report 3rd November, continued

Report by Sue Gwilym, pictures by Ben Eaton (BE), Rob Dunlop & Mike Ridley (DC)



Hymenosporum flavum (DC)



Prostanthera staurophylla (BE)



Leptospermum cultivar, maybe 'Aphrodite' (BE)



Sarcophilus hybrid



Leptospermum 'Lavender Queen' (DC)

Other plants featured:

Arthropodium strictum, *Callistemon* 'Taree Pink', *Dockrillia* sp., *Eremophila maculata* hybrid, *Grevillea* sp., *Grevillea longistyla*, *Hemiandra pungens*, *Isopogon anemonifolius*, *Leptospermum* pink cultivar, *Prostanthera gilesii*, *Ranunculus lappaceus*? Or weed?, *Ricinocarpos pinifolius*, *Sarcophilus* hybrid white, *Verticordia* x *Chamelaucium* Patty's Pink



Gardening for the Future by Roy & Janet Gwyther-Jones

I suppose all gardeners have the future in mind when planting or pruning or doing most jobs in their garden, but at the Wycliffe Centre in Kangaroo Ground, we are looking into the more distant future. For several months, we have been planting hundreds of trees and shrubs, most of which will not reach maturity for decades.

Twenty-eight acres (11.3 hectares) can accommodate a huge number of plants, so we decided to attempt to restore the land to its former state, but with bushfire mitigation an important consideration. Therefore, all new trees are being planted at least 50 metres from buildings. Apart from the aesthetic value, we have wildlife foremost in mind. By grouping thorny Hakea and Acacias in small coppices and as understory, we hope to attract small birds, currently excluded by Noisy Miners.

Thanks to the generosity of Yarra Yarra members, in particular Julie Franke, Mike Williams, Peter Smith, and others, who have donated significant numbers of tube stock, we have now planted over 300 trees and shrubs, most of them in two long wildlife corridors linking three stands of established trees. Much as I dislike straight rows, it has been necessary to plant in this manner to facilitate mowing.

It's been hard going, because the ground is so wet and the weeds so rampant, not to mention hungry kangaroos and rabbits. But in the years to come, after we have passed on, we will have left a legacy that will, in a small way, help combat climate change and add beauty to the landscape for future generations. And we will continue the work for as long as we can.



Roy also attached a photo of their *Acacia denticulosa* (Sandpaper Wattle) growing in their garden in Diamond Creek. It was given to them as a tube by Mike Williams about 5 years ago. The advice was to "Plonk it in the ground", but there was doubt it would ever come to anything. It put on almost no growth until last year when it grew about .25m and produced one flower. This year (pictured in September) it's 1.25m high and has lots of flowers.

It is listed as vulnerable, has a very limited natural habitat and is supposedly hard to grow. Roy will be eager to collect all of its seeds.





Inspired by Ben's amazing photo of *Anigozanthus* 'Masquerade' which Andrew McCann brought to the October flower table I went in search of more information, finding the origins of the cultivar at King's Park:

Flower Power

Reproduced from Friends of King Park website.

The development and commercial release of the novel coloured blue kangaroo paw *Anigozanthus* 'Masquerade' has led to funding by the Australian Research Council (\$500,000) and the Friends of Kings Park (\$125,000) for a research project to identify these unique colour compounds and the metabolic pathways that produce them.

The project, led by Dr David Field from Edith Cowan University, and Dr Siegy Kraus and Digby Growns from Kings Park, will provide significant outcomes for both the conservation of the genus and their development as ornamental garden plants.

The research will for the first time map the entire genome of two species of *Anigozanthos*, the red and green kangaroo paw *A. manglesii* and the green kangaroo paw *A. viridis*. This globally significant research will allow scientists to follow the sequence in colour expression and other morphological traits which will in turn lead to an in-depth understanding of the evolution of colour in natural populations, including rare colour variations, and their impact on pollination and population dynamics.

This new knowledge will also enable horticultural programs to efficiently breed varieties with desirable and highly marketable new colours. This project will not only develop new scientific insights and techniques but also inspire more research into Australian plants.

Ref: <https://www.friendsofkingspark.com.au/news/flower-power/>



Plastic Pot Recycling



Largely, in Australia, plant pots and labels are made from PP5 plastic – a plastic that can be recycled over and over again. However, currently only 8% of the plastic found in plant pots gets recycled as it is difficult for co-mingled recycling facilities to identify them.

Whilst plastics such as polypropylene are sourced originally using oil and fossil fuels, there is now enough material in the system to sustain a circular system of recovery and reuse. Look for the number 5 in the recycling triangle symbol on the base of your pot.

There is a national collection scheme being rolled out which includes a network of garden centres operating as collection points, so all you need to do is to find your nearest PP5 collection point and take your plant pots and labels down for recycling.

Once your PP5 plastic waste has been collected and recycled, industry leaders Norwood printers and Garden City Plastics (GCP) create new products out of the recycled materials, ready to go again.

Local collection points include Beasley's Nursery in Warrandyte, Nillumbik Nursery in Diamond Creek and Rivers of Yarrambat in South Morang. Find more information and your nearest collection point here: <https://pp5.com.au/>



Committee, Newsletter and General Meeting Matters

The APS Yarra Yarra Committee:

- Peter Smith - President, Garden Visits, M 0425 798 275
- Cathy Mann - Secretary, M 0409 706 610
- Sue Gwilym - Treasurer, M 0401 250 331
- Carmen Cooper - Membership Officer, Growers Group Leader, M 0413 012 045
- Anita Bourke - General Committee, Growers Group, M 0403 203 399
- Suzie Gordon - General Committee, Growers Group, M 0457 084 467
- Andrew McCann - General Committee

APS YY Committee Meeting Dates:

Next General Committee Meeting:

31st January 2023, via Zoom

Contributions to the February-March 2023 Newsletter by 16th January please

Email: yarrayarra@apsvic.org.au OR post to Newsletter Editor, APS Yarra Yarra, PO Box 298, Eltham 3095

Website: www.apsyarrayarra.org.au

Facebook: facebook.com/APSYarraYarra

Meeting Particulars: Visitors Always Welcome

When: 7.30pm, 1st Thursday each month (except January). Doors open 7.00pm. Come early for plant sales. \$2 Door Entry, prize draw. 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.

Audience etiquette: No interruptions to the speaker during the talk, questions (one per person) at the end of the talk, when requested.

Flower Table Specimens: Bring along your flowers, labelled if possible, for the flower table.

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: Please help set up chairs for the meeting from 7.00pm 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.*

