



AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY

Yarra Yarra Group Inc.

(Incorporation No: A0039676Y)

Newsletter March - April 2023

Dear Members,

Hope your gardens have benefitted from the recent Autumn rains and you have taken the opportunity to do some planting and transplanting. For me, Autumn signals the time of the year I can shift native plants in my garden with least risk. Unfortunately, this year a number of my plants needed to be moved to more appropriate locations in the garden. A difficult decision to make, given the risks of transplant shock to the plants. Now I have the long wait to see if they will survive. Rearranging furniture is far easier!

Autumn is the time of the year you will see the handsome male Allocasuarina Littoralis flowering, turning gold when laden with pollen.



In March the male Black She-oaks start producing their flowers showing up as the russet brown tips with the trees glowing in direct winter sunlight. I recently took this photo (below left) at Koomba Park in Wantirna.

Editor

Latest News

A message from our hardworking Committee of Management about Committee Membership & Helping Our Group

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

As we fast approach the end of the financial year and stare down another AGM, APS YY would like some new people to serve on our committee. Some of our existing committee

members are now coming to the end of (or near to) their maximum term. We want our group to continue to grow and attract new members, so it would be great to get some new faces onboard, bringing with them new ideas to inspire new directions and approaches.

We need some people in place within the committee as general members learning how it works prior to moving into executive roles. We meet via Zoom once a month on a Tuesday evening, so it's easy to participate and be involved. Being on committee is an enjoyable and rewarding experience, and all our existing committee are open to conversations if you want to know more about what is expected.

There are also jobs outside of committee that we need assistance with, so please consider if you can help with event planning, writing newsletter articles, writing up the flower table for the newsletter, finding speakers for our monthly meetings or maintaining our website and social media. These jobs can be shared, and it would be greatly appreciated if we could have more members participating in the running of our group for the benefit of all.

Check in with a committee member if you'd like to be involved.

Treasurer's Report – Sue Gwilym APS Vic Online Memberships and Fee Increases

APS Vic has been working on an online membership system for quite some time and it looks like it will be in place for 1st July renewals. Online membership renewals using payment by debit/credit card have been successfully trialled. Payment by card completes the renewal in one step, will reduce the work for the Membership Officer and is the preferred method. You will also be able to pay using Eftpos, but members who are unable to use the online system will still be able to pay by previous methods too (bank deposit, cheque, etc.).

At the November 2022 Committee of Management Meeting of APS Vic, it was decided to increase membership fees in all categories. APS Vic has not increased fees for several years, but rising costs have meant that a small increase is needed to cover costs. Currently single membership is \$35.00, and households pay \$40.00, which will increase to \$38.00 for a single, and \$44.00 for a household. Student membership will increase from \$26.00 to \$28.00. The subscription cost for Australian Plants magazine will rise from \$15.00 to \$20.00. Membership of APS Yarra Yarra will not increase and will remain at \$12.00.

APS VIC and Kuranga at MIFGS - March 29 to April 2 2023

By Miriam Ford (APS Vic President)

All photos provided by Miriam Ford

Thank you to everyone involved in the combined APS Vic and Kuranga display at MIFGS. What a superb effort and spectacular display.

The Karrikin Garden won the Boutique Garden award and represented recovery from fire and related to climate change and bushfire. The other Circles of Life won the Silver medal and also the People's choice award and was a fully native garden in the Achievable Gardens section.



The Circles of Life garden



The Karrikin garden

We couldn't have done it without all the wonderful volunteers who gave so generously of their time. Thank you to Chris Clarke for all the time and effort spent creating and managing the rosters for the five days and keeping everyone informed.

Kuranga brought in almost twice as many plants as last year. There were nine truckloads. Not just plants were involved but many large ceramic and glass bowls, rocks, sand, bark & logs.



Chris Clarke (above with Miriam) helping with the setup.

Kuranga was responsible for the creative concept and design of this year's show & it had the WOW factor in spades. So many people coming through commented on the display. We had an enormous number of visitors many of whom stayed and spoke with us. There were many comments on the plants particularly the flowering gums and the Christmas Bells & also the many Indigenous food plants present such as Finger Limes.



The APS Vic stand



Above - Christmas Bells - Blandfordia grandiflora & Flowering gums, pink and magenta - dwarf, grafted Corymbia ficifolia

Our web administrator John King advises that we were getting up to 90 people a day going through to our “join us” page. So far new APS memberships processed are over 30 but we are hoping for more to come in and for new people to turn up at district groups.



Above - the new APS Vic banner



Our President Peter Smith helping out at MIFGS

**Next Meeting
Thursday May 4**

**General Meeting Thursday 4th May 2023 -
Autumn Flower Table**



Photo: Crowea 'Festival', Brian Walters, ANSPA website

Our May meeting will showcase the wonderful plants which flower through the Autumn season. Please bring along specimens from your garden and be generous if you can if others want to take some for cuttings at the end of the night. Please label your plants with their names if you know them or bring them in for identification if you don't. It would be great if you'd like to say a few words regarding what you bring in, to share it with the group. We look forward to marvelling at the Autumn abundance.

Future Speakers & Meetings

General Meeting Thursday 1st June 2023

John Lenagan – Habitats for Nature, Supporting Those Essential Symbiotic Relationships



John is a retired Architect, who has always had a keen interest in nature and the ever present but often hidden symbiotic relationships within healthy ecosystems.

Since retiring John has explored many equatorial rainforest habitats including the Amazon Basin in Brazil, Venezuela, Columbia and Ecuador, he has also carried out field trips to the jungles of Sabah, West Papua, Madagascar and of course, the York Peninsula Queensland. As a conservation photographer he recorded basically anything and everything that moved or could wink at him. Through these immersed encounters he realised that within each and every one of these amazing environments all of its nature was a tightly woven web of symbiotic relations, each dependent on each other.

Since moving down to Anglesea 8 years ago with a house adjacent to the Otway ranges, John has been recording the local wildlife adjacent to and on their quarter acre plot and developing ways to naturally enhance the habitat of the property to support and attract the rich diversity of native wildlife.

His presentation while visually rich with detailed images and anecdotes of the many characters that he has encountered on the property, does not attempt to be scientific in its findings but more importantly attempts to celebrate the wonder of the many elements and animals that make up a healthy native habitat.

Upcoming Garden Visits

Future Dates for Yarra Yarra Outings.

Saturday 6th May. Working Bee and Garden Visit to Max McDowall, 10am - 12 midday. 10 Russell St. Bulleen (we should have enough tools, and we are winding it up with a sausage sizzle).

Sunday 4th June. Outing to Melton Botanic Gardens. Aiming for 1pm, to follow up with further detail.

Sunday 9th July. Garden Visit to Maureen Schaumann, 2pm. 88 Albany Drive, Mulgrave.

Sunday 6th August. Garden Visit to Ray Barnes, 2pm. 5 Adecroft Ct. Eltham.

Flower Table March

By Sue Gwilym. Photos by Ben Eaton (BE)



Banksia marginata (BE)



Ixodia sp (BE)

Cassinia aculeata (BE)



Eremophila 'Big Polly' (BE)



Lythrum salicaria (BE)



Eremophila nivea x *christopherii* (BE)



Prostanthera cryptandroides (BE)

Flower Table April

By Sue Gwilym. Pictures by Ben Eaton (BE)

Thank you to everyone who brought along flower specimens for our April meeting:



Scaevola nitida (BE)



Verticordia monodelpha (BE)



Verticordia chrysostachys (BE)

Thank you to everyone who brought along flower specimens for our March meeting.



Verticordia spicata (BE)



Acacia genistifolia (BE)



Diplolaena grandiflora (BE)



Calytrix fraseri (BE)



Eremophila 'Meringur Isaac' (BE)



Crowea exalata (BE)



Eucalyptus leucoxydon (BE)



Goodenia varia (BE)



Hibiscus geranioides (BE)



Grevillea thyrsoidea ssp *pustula* (BE)



Platysace deflexa (BE)



Siegfriedia darwinioides (BE)



Halgania cyanea (BE)

Other plants featured:

Acacia rhodophloia

Correa alba

Correa alba pink form

Correa 'Marian's Baby' seedling of 'Marian's Marvel'

Crocea exalata, 3 slightly different forms

Eremophila debilis (pink fruits)

Eremophila drummondii

Eremophila macdonnellii

Eremophila youngii

Grevillea sp (WA grafted)

Grevillea 'Pink Surprise'

Melaleuca thymifolia white form

Ptilotus exaltatus

Scaevola 'Mauve Clusters'

Past Speaker Reports

Report on talk by Miriam Ford about ANPSA (Australian Native Plants Society Australia) 2/4/2023 . Report by Cathy Mann

Wondering what ANPSA is? Well if you came to our last meeting you would now be well-informed thanks to our speaker Miriam Ford.

ANPSA is an association of all the state and territory native plant societies, such as APS Victoria (our state branch).

They do lots of things including running study groups, publications, supporting research, festivals, conferences, seminars and encouraging interest in and cultivation of, Australian native plants. Their website is a treasure trove of information on our native plants. It's worth checking out, especially the native plant profiles which give you extensive growing and propagating information with great photos for ID: <https://anpsa.org.au/>

But Miriam's main focus was on the biennial conferences held by ANPSA every 2 years. They are held by different states and territories on a rotating basis and 2024 will be Victoria's turn.

Miriam has been to a number of these conferences and highly recommends them – for the garden tours, pre- and post-tours further afield and of course the information you will glean and the camaraderie of like-minded people.

The seminars involve talks by expert speakers interspersed with field trips. Each conference has a different theme.

We enjoyed the presentation Miriam gave of the Conference in 2019 in Albany, Western Australia with plenty of wonderful photos and a commentary by Miriam.

Miriam also attended the 2022 conference in Kiama NSW, which had the theme of Past, Present and Future. Our friend Costa gave the AJ Swaby address and a stage full of young people contributed, in keeping with the Future

part of the theme. And of course there were enjoyable field trips and pre- and post- tours to be had.

All photos provided by Miriam Ford



The 2024 conference hosted by Victoria will have the theme Gardens for Life and many exciting trips and speakers are being organised. Keep an eye out for any updates.



Report on Neil Duncan's talk: Flora of the Pillaga National Park and other Parks near Sydney 6/4/2023. Report by Cathy Mann

Neil is a member of the Keilor Plains APS group and had wanted to visit the Pillaga for a while, so he was very pleased when it was one of the tours offered with the ANPSA conference last year.

The Pillaga National Park is in northern NSW, between Coonabarabran and Narrabri, the closest town being Baradine. It's generally flat and wooded country with amazing sandstone caves (like honeycomb), which were used extensively by the local indigenous people. Their botanist guide, David Clark, (who sometimes writes articles about plants and geology in Australian Plants) showed the group a multitude of native plants including Acacias, Boronias, Orchids, Cryptandra, Dampieras, Hardenbergias, Styphelias and Phebaliums. Neil showed us some wonderful photos of these plants.

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/pillaga-national-park>

A lot of the tracks were closed due to heavy rains in the area but, if they couldn't get to a certain place, another of interest would be found nearby, one of which was a cut flower and nursery business with large gardens, which they spent a while exploring.

They also explored the Sawn Rocks Organ Pipes in Mt Kaputar National Park near Narrabri. Neil is also a member of the Friends of Organ Pipes National Park in Victoria. These structures are formed by cooling magma into hexagonal basalt pipes.

<https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/things-to-do/walking-tracks/sawn-rocks-walking-track>

Back then to Kiama and the conference. The field trips from there took them to the University of Sydney Research Farm where one of the researchers is trialling native grasses to use as crops for bread.

The Royal National Park just south of Sydney was a highlight with cabbage palms and many walking tracks; also the Illawarra Grevillea Botanical Garden at the edge of the rainforest near Wollongong.

They also visited Boongala Native Gardens which is 11 hectares of recreated rainforest and gardens in Kenthurst near Sydney.

<https://www.boongalagardens.com/visitor-information.html>

Kuringai National Park is north of Sydney and contained a wealth of flannel flowers (with lots of insects in them), waratahs, rock orchids and banksias. On the other side of the bay was North Head with its beautiful Angophoras growing on the sandstone. The old Quarantine Cemetery nearby was also a wonderland of wildflowers especially flannel flowers.

Thanks to Neil for a most interesting and inspiring talk, and wonderful photography to enjoy.

All photos provided by Neil Duncan

Boronia serrulata in Royal National Park



Sandstone Caves in Pilliga NP



Past Garden Visit Reports

La Trobe Uni (Nangak Tamboree) Wildlife Sanctuary 31/3/2023 Report by Peter Smith

Unfortunately poor weather and several late cancellations saw only three of us greeted by two keen young guides.

They gave us a brief background to this now revived bio-diverse waterway connecting the Gresswell Habitat Link in the north through LaTrobe’s Bundoora Campus to Darebin Creek in the south. Most of the 30 hectare area of River Red Gum Grassy woodlands had initially been cleared for grazing, and cleared further for recreational activity connected to the former Mont Park Psychiatric institution.

Setting off into the drizzle, it wasn't long before we were confronted by a tiny frog on the pathway. We continued cautiously, but our attention was soon focused on the treetops where both the Brushtail and Ringtail possums were moving about. Then...Whizoo...a glider (Sugar or Feather tailed...not sure), but fascinating to watch it making its way up higher, to perhaps launch again.

Before long we were at Main Lake, hearing about the problems posed to our native fish populations and waterways by the introduced mosquito fish (*Gambusia holbrooki*). Another frog, an Eastern dwarf tree frog, this one spotted while looking at the marvellous glistening webs of the leaf curling spiders.

Onwards we moved, hearing about the preference of our frogs for the ephemeral and natural wetlands over the man-made habitat, the chorus growing louder as we approached these areas. Further on the story of the goat...? sorry can't give away everything! Some active Yarra Yarra participation as we recognised a few of the local plants and listened in on the importance of retaining the older trees (including non-indigenous) in the hope of getting good hollows. The associated

Styphelia angustifolia in Ku-ring-gai NP



Actinotus minor near Sydney



importance of providing nesting boxes...the abandoned old Holden station wagon, another story for another day...a bit further on the Galaxiella Billabong, not manmade and free from the ubiquitous "noxious" Gambusia, and home to native Galaxiids. Our guides had been building up our hopes of seeing some resident Tawny Frogmouths, but no, what we first thought was a Tawny sitting not far from the track, came in closer to show us that "they" is indeed a Southern Boobook. A wonderful ending to a wonderful night out and about.



Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary photo from Latrobe Wildlife Sanctuary website © Latrobe University

Ann and Tom Cox Garden Visit, Lower Plenty on 5/3/2023. Report by Peter Smith

A surprisingly large group turned up on this hot March afternoon to see what long-time members Ann and Tom Cox had created over some fifty years or so on their hard hillside in Lower Plenty.

The shapely trunks of local eucalypts framed the pathway, and their canopies shaded us as we gathered on the paved verandah. Tom and Ann told some of the stories of clearing the weeds, building their mud brick home, creating a garden, acquiring the next door block, creating more garden, all whilst raising their young family.

Back then a creek and gully ran at the bottom of the hill local kids hung out. Not having much success growing from cuttings, Ann grew plants from seed. The priority was to screen the inevitable development, and even back

then, they could foresee "climate change" and they chose "plants which could tolerate dry conditions - lots of eremophilas, acacias, correas, mallees and hakeas".

As we split up to look around and take it all in, a large spreading "Moonah" (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) impressed us all, as well as attracting numerous bees, butterflies and other insects with its white flowers. Local wattles and a developing *Acacia covenyi* were doing the job of screening. *Banksias*, *Westringias*, *Prostantheras* were also surviving well. We recognised some of the plants picked up from their trips further afield (Arid Lands Gardens Nursery) as well as some from people within the group. *Geijera parviflora*, *Pittosporum angustifolium*, *P. phylliraeoides*, *Callitris* and *Allocasuarina*...some of Noel's eremophilas, and Ann's favourite, the small leaf blue bush (*Mariana brevifolia*), familiar to those who have journeyed inland.

Much to take in...and as a cuppa beckoned...and much chatting ensued...not enough time to take in the garden up top. Thank you Ann and Tom for a lovely relaxed Sunday afternoon

Photos of the day by Jill Lulham





On the Grapevine...

Rotary Community Tree Planting - Queen's Jubilee Project along the Diamond Creek

You are invited to join us in partnering with Rotary Club of Eltham and other community groups to plant 1040 trees to target canopy loss, habitat loss and breaks in the wildlife corridor along the Diamond Creek between Wattletree Road and Allendale Road.

The project was officially launched on 14th October 2022 with the planting of ceremonial trees; however the main plantings were deferred to Autumn this year to minimise plant loss over the Summer period.

We will be putting together groups of 6-8 people to plant out trees on **Sunday 21st May from 10.00am to 12.30pm**. All plants and equipment will be provided, but feel free to BYO gloves, etc. Further details of where the planting will take place for our group will be provided closer to the date, but please register your interest if you'd like to come along by emailing us at yarrayarra@apsvic.org.au or phone a committee member (numbers listed at the back of the newsletter).

(Picture credit :

<https://carbonneutral.com.au/product/plant-a-tree-yarra-yarra/>)



Would you like your soil tested?

For all you vegie growers out there, the EPA has a new citizen science program called GardenSafe where they will test your garden soil for 8 contaminants including lead. They will also look at the quality of the soil and send you a report detailing the results. All you do is register on their website and send in 3 soil samples. Data will be collated to assist in understanding potential contamination levels in residential areas of Victoria. It will not be used for any other purpose.

<https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/get-involved/citizen-science-program/gardensafe>

Have you seen this weed?



Aaron's Beard *Hypericum calycinum* Photo from Nillumbik Environment and Sustainability E-News March 2023

New and Emerging Weed - Aaron's Beard *Hypericum calycinum*

The following information is from Nillumbik Environment and Sustainability E-News March 2023

In December 2022 Council officers noted a weed unfamiliar to them in Christmas Hills growing along Skyline Road. Aaron's Beard *Hypericum calycinum* is an extensively creeping, rhizomatous subshrub to 40 cm high. The flowers are solitary yellow in colour and approximately 5cm across.

The species hasn't been recorded outside of gardens before in Nillumbik and has the potential to spread further. It is related to other *Hypericum* species such as St Johns Wort and Tutsan, both more common weeds in the shire. There are also native St Johns Worts', which are generally smaller than the introduced ones.

Council is actively managing the weed on roadsides but it also appears to be spreading into adjacent private property. If you suspect you have this species on your property or would like help in identification of weeds. You can contact Council's environment team – environment@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens Autumn Plant Sale

Saturday 29 April, 10am to 4pm

Sunday 30 April, 10am to 3pm

Inside Southern Gate (formerly Known as Gate E), Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne.

Free entry

The plants on sale are mainly sourced from the Royal Botanic Gardens and many are not commonly available. Plants offered will be in the following categories: **Australian Natives**, Climbers, Bulbs & Rhizomes, Camellias, Herbs, Perennials, Hanging Baskets, Shrubs ,

Succulents, Trees, Bromeliads, Orchids and Rhododendrons & Vireyas.

Advice will also be available from members and from RBGV Horticultural staff who will happily answer questions on the day.

For more information: t(03) 9650 6398
friends@frbgmelb.org.au
w www.rbgfriendsmelbourne.org



Weekend Work Wanted : Qualified Arborist Services – Tree Work



I'm a fully qualified and insured arborist, looking for weekend jobs in the local area. I work full time for a tree services company, so on weekends I have my personal climbing and chainsaw equipment to work with, but I don't

have a chipper or the means to take away large amounts of material (so I won't charge you for that).

I can cut branches to manageable lengths if you want to keep it for firewood or as habitat in the garden. I can also write reports on tree health and do arboriculture assessments if required.

I'd be happy to come out and review your trees and provide you with some advice and a no obligation quote. Please call or message me on 0411 733 654. Thanks, Evan Gwilym.

Diary Dates 2023

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

13 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.

21 May 2023 - Rotary Community Tree Planting - Queen's Jubilee Project along the Diamond Creek 10am to 12:30pm. Please register your interest by emailing us at yarrayarra@apsvic.org.au

24 & 25 June 2023 – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

2 September 2023 – APS Cardinia Region Group Plant Sale at Akoonah Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick, from 9 am to 3 pm. To be located in the undercover fruit and vegetable market area.

9 & 10 September 2023 - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community &

Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham.
10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days.

16 & 17 September 2023 – Angair Wildflower Show & Art Show, Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan Street, Anglesea. 10 am to 4 pm. Wildflower display, indigenous plant sales, art show and painting sales.

23 & 24 September 2023 – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory College, Kairn Road, Strathdale (Bendigo).

23 & 24 September 2023 – APS Grampians host APS Vic September COMM.

30 September & 1 October 2023 – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

7 October 2023 – APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. 9 am to 4 pm. Flower show, native plant sales, basket weaving display, floral art and painting sales.

14 October 2023 – APS Mitchell Plant Expo and Sale. Wallan Community Centre, Bentinck Street, Wallan. From 9 am to 3 pm.

21 & 22 October 2023 - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

30 September to 4 October, 2024 – ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference hosted by APS Victoria in Melbourne.



Administrative Matters

The APS Yarra Yarra Committee:

Peter Smith - President, Garden Visits,

Mob 0425 798 275

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

Andrew McCann – General Committee

Newsletter - bimonthly

Contributions for the Newsletter to the Editor
Sonia Gatti by **Monday June 12 2023** please.
Receipt of emails will be acknowledged.

Email: soniagatti59@gmail.com

Or 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

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

Meeting Particulars: Visitors always welcome.

When: 7.30pm, 1st Thursday each month
(except January). Doors open 7.00pm. 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.*