

# Newsletter May – June 2023

#### Dear Members,

our Autumn plant sale held on the 22nd May was a great success. A huge thank you to all involved. This event, as always, was a team effort. Our treasurer reports that we had one of our best uptakes of new memberships, with 17 new members joining our group. We have already welcomed some of them at our General Meetings and hope to see more new members at our various outings in the coming months.



The Autumn Sale in full swing! Photo: Sonia Gatti

A warm welcome to new members:

Wendy Hames, Maeve Kennedy, Janet Van Der Kolk, Wayne & Vikki Tonissen, Kathryn Finkelde, Valda Groves, Michael Parow, Ann Higgins, Mal Stuart, Peter MacKinlay, Denise Bett, Paul Grech, Julie Sale, Liz Blackwood, Adam and Caroline Hedt, Vishal Chaturvedi, Indu Joseph, Boneym Thomas, Jacqueline Noonan, Monica McCrohan, Sally and Peter Malkoutzis, Sean Walsh and Nicola Naylor.

Editor



#### Membership Renewal Payments Due 1<sup>st</sup> July

The new APS Victoria online membership system is now up and running and from 1<sup>st</sup> July your membership renewal should be completed online.

You will need to login on the <u>APS Vic website</u> using your email address & membership number. Your membership number is printed on the front of your Growing Australian magazine envelope, so please retain this when it arrives in the post with your June newsletter. Please pay both your APS Vic and your Yarra Yarra membership together online.

If you need help renewing, please let Sue Gwilym (Treasurer) know. If you are a new member and have joined our group after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023, please disregard this notice as your membership will run until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and requires no further action.

#### New! - Q&A sessions at general meetings

The COM has decided to trial a new session at our general meetings where members can ask questions, bring in plants for ID, get tips for the garden etc.

Just a short session after our speaker - and we will rely on the collected wisdom of our members (which is immense!) for answers. So please don't hold back on Qs or As. We want to make this session as helpful as we can - especially for our new members. And sharing your wisdom is a wonderful thing to do!

### APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale 22 April Report by Sonia Gatti

The morning was extremely busy with serious shoppers keen to get in early. There were, at times, long queues at checkouts, people with bags, baskets, trolleys or arms full of plants patiently waiting to be served. By the mornings end, many stall holders had to restock. The afternoon was a lot slower. But many took time out and had a cuppa and a snack at the very convenient pop-up café which had been set up in the foyer.

Jill Lulham reports we issued 675 people with entry tickets, this number does not include stall holders and members helping out. Overall, the group made a small profit of \$1,206. APS Vic book sales did better than ever, with total sales being over \$3370 (Yarra Yarra gets 10% of sales) Who says books are dead?! The Yarra Yarra Growers Group made a small profit of just under \$600, a great effort!

A big thank you to Jill Lulham for her organising efforts, to all the volunteers, Suzie for her flower displays and Roula and Nada for providing nourishment to stallholders and members.

Yarra Yarra Growers setting up on the Fridaytransporting our plants from Montsalvat to the Reception Centre

The following 3 photos by Anita Bourke







APS YY News 2023 - Page 2

# Saturday Morning before opening time -the calm before the storm!

## The following photos by Sonia Gatti

Carmen waiting in front of the Yarra Yarra stall-all ready to go!



Miriam and Suzie waiting for opening at their lovely dispay table.



Heather, Sue and Peter getting ready for opening at the front desk.





## The doors open and in they come!

Mike W (with mask on) advising customers at his stall



Roula and Nada having a break from their catering duties, chatting to Lyhn and Gordon Barfield.



People queuing at the check out



A very happy shopper! Photo by Mike Williams



# Next Meeting Thursday July 6

Our next meeting will be a propagation workshop. There will be many propagation experts on hand to guide you through the process of successfully propagating native plants. It's fun and easy when you know how, and can also save you money.

Please bring along a glass or plastic jar (to hold water) and your own secateurs as these may be in limited supply. Gloves are not required but if you prefer to wear gloves, BYO.

You may also bring cuttings from your garden, but please identify plants with labels.



APS Yarra Yarra 2023 AGM will be held on Thursday 3rd August at the Mummery Room, Edendale Farm at 7.30pm.

Nomination forms, proxy forms, reports and minutes of the last AGM will be sent out closer to time. We are losing Anita and Carmen from the Committee and also our President Peter so - we need you!!

Please consider volunteering for the Committee - many hands make light work. You can ring any member of the COM to ask what is involved or talk to us at meetings. Thank you.

Also, Sonia Gatti will give a short photo presentation from her recent trip through Western Australia, focusing on plants and flowers of the Kalbarri region. Upcoming Garden Visits

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

#### Maureen describes her garden as follows:

Our home was built in 1970 on a suburban block 60 x 120ft. Not knowing anything about gardening, my first attempts were not encouraging. Our soil was heavy clay, like concrete, and my efforts to turn it over were virtually impossible. Eventually my husband was able to do this for me and over time by adding lots of sandy loam and mountain soil, digging became much easier.

As my husband Vic was a lawn lover, he planted a lawn in the front and back surrounding them with garden beds. The planting left was up to me. Originally, I planted exotics but was never happy with the outcome. After a couple of years Vic suggested growing native plants and innocently, I asked, what are they? At the time Waverley APS wrote about a 'Plant of the Month' in our local paper which Vic used to read with interest. He suggested I might like to join the Group and learn more about them. After seeing the specimen table at the first meeting, I was hooked.

The garden has seen many changes over the years. My first natives were the quick growing kind. Most of these have now been replaced with much smaller ornamental trees and shrubs. One Casuarina torulosa is still standing and taking up most of the back garden as is a Jacaranda from the early exotic days.

In 1995, despite my husband's protestations, I decided to dig up the front lawn, replace it with granite chips and an ephemeral soak in the middle. After a lot of back-breaking work, and with no help from 'him indoors', I was delighted with the transformation. I did the same in the backyard two years later after the swimming pool was removed and I was left

with a lovely natural soak without any digging at all.

As I am getting older my gardening habits are changing to growing smaller plants that are much easier for me to handle. My garden has lots of Brachyscomes and other daisies which can flower on and off all year as well as Hibbertias, Dampieras and many other small treasures.

I hope you all enjoy your visit to my garden.

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



By Sue Gwilym. Photos by Ben Eaton (BE)

Thank you to everyone who brought along flower specimens for our huge Autumn Flower Table at the May meeting:





Allocasuarina littoralis (male) (BE)



Banksia spinulosa low growing form (BE)

Acacia fontleroyi (BE)



Bossiaea walkeri (BE)



Callistemon 'Bronwen'



Correa backhousiana (self sown) (BE)



Correa pulchella 'Nell' (BE)



Correa reflexa Ben Boyd form (BE)



Crowea exalata form (BE)



Eremophila glabra 'Kalbarri Carpet' (BE)



Eucalyptus erythrocorys (BE)



Grevillea magnifica (BE)



Grevillea lavandulacea (BE)



Grevillea 'Pink Surprise' (BE)



Hakea 'Stockdale Sensation' (BE)



Pycnosorus globosus (BE)



Quoya dilatata (BE)



Spyridium parvifolium 'Kangaroo Island' (BE)



Templetonia retusa (BE)



Thryptomene denticulate (BE)



Veronica arenaria Warrandyte form (BE)



Xerochrysum bracteatum (BE)

#### Other plants on the display table:

Acacia iteaphylla Acacia ulicifolia Banksia spinulosa Banksia spinulosa form Banksia spinulosa 'Honey Pots' Callistemon 'Endeavour' Callistemon subulatus 'Brogo Overflow' Correa alba Correa alba Correa alba var. pannosa Correa bunch Correa 'Federation Belle' Correa glabra x 'Dusky Bells' Correa 'Jingle Bells' Correa 'Marion's Baby' (self-seeded from Marion's Marvel) Correa pulchella Correa pulchella form Correa pulchella form Correa 'Red Empress' Correa reflexa 'Enfield' Correa reflexa form Correa reflexa 'Portland Giant' Crowea exalata form Darwinia fascicularis Diplolaena grandiflora Elaeocarpus reticularis with berries Epacris impressa Epacris longiflora Epacris reclinata Eremophila 'Beryl's Blue' Eremophila calcicola Eremophila nivea Eremophila oppositifolia Eremophila 'Picaninny Dawn' Eremophila sp Grevillea banksii x bipinnatifida Grevillea lanigera Grevillea lanigera hybrid Grevillea 'Mallee Cherie' Grevillea 'Moonlight' Grevillea sp Grevillea 'Spirit of Anzac' Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty' (petiolaris x myrtoides) Hakea laurina Melaleuca fulgens 'Hot Pink' Melaleuca fulgens purple Melaleuca lateritia Melaleuca thymifolia purple Olearia homolepis Ptilotus obovatus Siegfriedia darwinioides Thomasia foliosa Westringia longifolia



By Sue Gwilym. Photos by Ben Eaton (BE)

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



Acacia merinthophora (BE)



Acacia podalyriifolia (BE)



Banksia media (BE)



Calytrix sp (BE)



Correa pulchella 'White Tips' (BE)



Crowea saligna (BE)



Epacris impressa 'Bega Form' (BE)



Grevillea alpina (BE)



Hakea invaginate (BE)



Melaleuca fulgens (BE)

APS YY News 2023 – Page 13



Senna artemisioides (BE)

#### **Other plants featured:**

Acacia ulicifolia Correa pulchella form salmon Correa reflexa 'Longfellow' Correa reflexa nummulariifolia Dampiera linearis Dockrillia Australian Purple Pepper Dockrillia grimesii x nugentii Eremophila decipiens Eremophila georgei Eremophila oppositifolia purple Eucalyptus erythrocorys Eucalyptus leucoxylon rosea Eucalyptus pulverulenta Grevillea acuaria Grevillea alpina Grevillea 'Coconut Ice' Grevillea humifusa Grevillea nudiflora Grevillea sp. Grevillea speciosa Grevillea 'Vaughan's Daughter' Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty' Hakea laurina x petiolaris 'Pin Ball' Hakea nodosa Templetonia retusa

# Past Speaker Reports

General Meeting Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 John Lenagan – Habitats for Nature, Supporting Those Essential Symbiotic Relationships. Report by Miriam Ford



What lies beneath – our lesser seen Biodiversity & Web of Life

All his life John has been interested in nature. His photography was superb, close-up and revealing detail that could otherwise not be seen with the naked eye. His talk concentrated on the small creatures, the largely unseen biodiversity in our back yard. When thinking about the biomass present in front of us in nature – most of it,  $\frac{2}{3}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$ , is underground. All this underground life is part of what is required to breakdown what is above ground & assist with cycling nutrients through the system.

The decomposers below the soil are moving nutrients back up for all the above ground consumers. So many of our beetles, flies, moths, wasps spend a large part of their life underground. Bryophytes, lichens, mosses turn nutrients into essential nutrients for other larger creatures. They are essential for the beginning of that nutrient cycle. Without fungi our plants would not survive. He spent much of his talk describing his superb photographs that cannot be described here – fungi that feed on other fungi, on moths, on wood etc. He showed some amazing photos of the eyes of flies and showed how they differ according to their lifestyle. He spoke of Beetles (Golden Honey Beetle) essential to breaking down all the dead eucalypt leaves on the forest floor then Grasshoppers, katydids (crickets), stone grasshoppers, stick insects – extraordinary diversity, all important to the nutrient cycle.

John is a member of ANGAIR (Anglesea and Aireys Inlet) and spends much time down Anglesea way as well as at his house in Diamond Creek. During a mothing night down at Anglesea you would see 150 species, in the tropics many hundreds more. He talked about the number of weevils we have in Australia, over 4000 described species in greater than 800 genera! Many are herbivores & really crazy looking up close - I think I know where PIXAR gets its ideas from. He spoke about niche habitats and described a large group of insects that only live in Xanthorrhoea/Grass trees spiders, beetles, moth larvae etc. Then Borers such as Featherhorn, longiform beetles. These beetles are part of the cycle, also sap suckers such as harlequin bugs, leaf hoppers are all part of the nutrient cycle in the back yard. Then there were macabre tales (with pictures) of wasps removing the legs of spiders while still alive so they will fit in a tube that goes underground where they will be used as food for their eggs and the larvae that then emerge.

If you have things working well in your soil then the birds will come. If you do not have the lerp feeders for instance such as smaller birds like wrens, silver eyes, thornbills who eat many more lerps than lorikeets, gang gangs and rosellas then gum trees will die. He has five different bird baths in his back yard, up in trees, on the ground, above the ground. Different species come to the different baths. Make sure you have escape routes for them as well so they can escape predators such as butcher birds. Creating natural habitats is all about layering. Tall trees, mid-level shrubs then smaller shrubs to form the understorey, also grasses and low-level plants with some dead decomposing stuff as

well. Animals and birds can feed in the different layers and be protected.

He ranged far and wide with images that spoke even more eloquently than he – quite a feat! Thank-you John.



# Max and Regina McDowall's Garden 6 May, a scientific approach. (Taken largely from Max's own notes.)

Max is a long-time member of both Yarra Yarra and Maroondah APS. He has been actively involved with the Grevillea, Eremophila and Acacia Study Groups over many years.

Max continues (with Tim and Mike's help) to attend meetings, and Yarra Yarra decided to have a working bee cum garden visit to help Max maintain his amazing garden. Several members turned up on this wet and wintry Saturday morning, and were warmly welcomed by Max and his daughter Sharon. We had a brief tour of the garden and then set to work pruning, weeding and mulching.

The garden was established in the 1970s on what was previously orchard ground. An overlying layer of heavy clay (ex roadworks) was removed, and they then incorporated a mixture of coarse sand, fine scoria, sandy loam, mountain soil and some local topsoil. Beds were raised and Gypsum and compost also added.

As well as obtaining plants from APS sales and nurseries, Regina and Max were enthusiastic growers themselves...over time large eucalypts and wattles were replaced by shrubs, and more recently larger shrubs have given way to smaller ones. Max, a bio-chemist, made use of trace elements - dolomite, iron sulphate and blood and bone. Overtime sand, compost, used potting soil and organic mulching have been further added, and irrigation installed. Max also made use of various fertilisers (Nutricote TE, IBDU, Macrocote - which includes a range of rhizobium spores and other mycorrhiza incorporated into the skin of the pellets).

Max said, "Recently we have been successful in greatly enhancing the flowering of many species of Myrtaceae and Proteaceae by the seasonal top-dressing with granulated Potassium Sulfate (Rich-Gro Potash available from Bunnings). Potash is best applied after the vigorous new season's growth has developed naturally or in response to pruning and or application of a general fertiliser, but before or during the development of flower buds." Max further added, "Flowering and regrowth of shrubs are also enhanced or extended by the prompt and regular removal of spent flower heads."

...Back to the working bee... after much effort of many hands, Max's garden looked renewed and refreshed and as the lunch bell sounded, we all sat down to share a convivial meal around the table...ourselves somehow rejuvenated by our shared experience. Thanks to all.

## Melton Botanic Garden Visit 4 June. Report by Peter Smith



Group photo by Miriam Ford

Expecting another cold wintry day, members were pleased as we arrived in lovely sunshine at the Melton Botanic Garden.

Barbara and David Pye and Ann Langmaid were there to greet us, and the nursery gate was open. Ten minutes were allowed for the buying of plants; hardly enough time for a healthy contingent of YY members. The bus and cars loaded, a quick bite to eat, and Barbara gave us a background briefing, and off we launched.

This 26-hectare site is run entirely by volunteers with assistance from the Council (Friends of MBG celebrating 20 years this year). With an average rainfall of 450mm the gardens were set up to display dry climate plants mostly from around Australia, with sections also with South African, Mediterranean and Californian plants.

Starting off in the Eucalyptus arboretum we were impressed with the number and variety of small eucalypts, some of which were flowering profusely and alive with birds and bees. Eremophilas carpeted the ground below, and Barbara explained that they were using less daisies nowadays due to their higher maintenance requirements. We then detoured a little to a recently planted area to see a Banksia prionotes coming into flower (the soil here coming from Maddingley Brown Coal

in Bacchus Marsh) We then traipsed through some more of the 100 odd varieties of eucalypts and down an earlier planting of local varieties, then veered towards the large beds devoted to different South and Western Australian bio-regions. Hardly keeping up with the range of plants, we skirted by the

impressive South African section and landed in the preserved bush area looking across the original dam at a magnificent old redgum. The redgum is one of several in this natural indigenous area along Ryan's Creek which feeds into the Main Lake and beyond.

We then took our time wandering back, admiring many fine specimens and listening to Barbara telling us about their experiences creating this amazing garden. Back at the shed we shared a cuppa, as Chris Clark, Ann and Miriam presented Barbara and David with the APS YY News 2023 – Page 16 APS "Impressa Award," in recognition of their longstanding and tireless work in guiding this community project to fruition. Well done and many thanks to Barbara, David and the Volunteers

Photos of the day by Ben Eaton















APS YY News 2023 – Page 17











On the Grapevine...

## Living Heritage Exhibition at the Ballaarat Mechanics Institute 117-119 Sturt St, Ballarat

Plant collections and books of Ferdinand von Mueller. On display till 30 June - in the Heritage Reading Room - Open generally weekdays 11am to 3pm, Saturdays till 12 noon. Cost: Free to BMI members | \$5 for non-members. For more info: https://youtu.be/JIYj7tATG5E

The following article on endangered Australian plants from The Conversation is well worth a read. It is a few years old but still very relevant. Follow the link below:

https://theconversation.com/amp/the-50beautiful-australian-plants-at-greatest-risk-ofextinction-and-how-to-save-them-160362



# weeds, weeds, weeds!

Tackling weeds without becoming overwhelmed FREE WORKSHOP

Bring weed samples for identification



Presented by George Paras, B. Ag. Sci long term environmental educator and ranger Saturday June 17th at Monty Hub cnr Mountainview and Rattray Roads, Montmorency Arrive from 1.15pm for 1.30pm start Refreshments provided- gold coin donation. Bookings- 0417 110 837 or email <u>prowley49@tpg.com.au</u>



Organised by Montmorency Biodiversity Group / Montmorency Community Group Check our new Facebook page- Montmorency Biodiversity Group All workshops are funded through a grant from Banyule City Council

FOR RESIDENTS and VOLUNTEERS

## **Diary Dates 2023**

**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.

**22 & 23 July 2023** – Australian Garden - Cranbourne Winter Sale. 10 am – 4.00 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. APS YY News 2023 - Page 19 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 **Friday August 11 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.

(<u>https://www.humebrickspavers.com.au/</u>) Thank You!

Website: <u>www.apsyarrayarra.org.au</u>

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. 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.