



AUSTRALIAN PLANT SOCIETY
Yarra Yarra Group Inc.
(Incorporation No: A0039676Y)

Newsletter July - August 2023

Dear Members,

Welcome to our July-August newsletter. Spring seems to have come early with blossom out and birds getting busy with their nests. The wattles are out along the Plenty River and Diamond Creek and look amazing.



Wattles along Plenty River

We will also be getting busy with Expo which is rapidly approaching. See more later in the newsletter. We hope you enjoy your gardens waking up after the long winter. It's still very dry though, so here's hoping the El Nino that's forecast is not too severe.

Happy reading! Cathy (stand-in editor)

A warm welcome to new members:

Chris Clarke and Liz Schroeder

Ralph Henger

Deb McMillan

Mel's Garden Care & Maintenance

James Redrup

M. Trevillion

Barbara Watson.

**Next Meeting 7th
September**

Speaker: Trevor Blake on Thomasias (Lantern bushes) and allied genera.

Trevor has had a lifelong fascination with our flora which has taken him and his family all over Australia into some of the remotest areas, where the plants and wildlife are stunning. Trevor has written about and illustrated our flora in many articles and books, for example, he is the illustrator for the "Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants" by Rodger Elliot and David Jones.

Trevor's talk will be on the Lantern Bushes, covering 7 genera in this wonderful group of plants that lend themselves ideally to horticulture. We know a few Thomasia and Lasiopetalum species but there are so many more that can be quite stunning in gardens.

Trevor became interested in them many years ago and had some great success with the few he grew. As he delved into the group for an article, he found there were many specimens he had not heard of tucked away in Herbaria. Trevor had started to illustrate them and decided to try and include all species in each genus, a task that was to take some years. Revisions were taking place and he was keen to include the latest classifications - some long delays here.

Quite a number are found in very restricted communities, and should be well distributed to Botanic Gardens, as well as private

plantings, with climate change and fire being of great concern. With around 200 species this was turned into a book entitled '**Lantern Bushes of Australia**' which was published last year by APS Keilor Plains.



Lasiopetalum bracteatum – photo by Trevor Blake

Future Meetings and Speakers

October meeting:- Grand Flower Table.

We hope you'll have lots of floral wonderfulness to bring along for all to enjoy.

November meeting:- Catriona & Phil Bate speaking on Petrophiles and Isopogons

Upcoming Garden Visits

September: No garden visit due to Expo.

October: Paul and Margaret Dent's Garden

Latest News

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS EXPO! – Yes, it's that time again when we put on a display of our native plants which will surprise and delight you. As well as many plants to purchase from

the Growers Group, APS YY growers, Phil Vaughan, Goldfields, Sunvalley, and Nangak Tamboree indigenous plants, there'll be beautiful pottery, gifts, books, displays and lots more.

To make this all happen we need you! The roster for volunteers has been sent out with days and times when you can help with setup or on the sale days. It will be sent out again soon in case you missed it.

- **Friday 8th Sep** is set up day at ECRC (Eltham Community and Reception Centre) from 9am.*** **Please bring any flowers to display on Friday up until 4pm. If you bring them in a bucket, please label it with your name so we can return it to you.**
- **Saturday 9th September** (Expo day) from 8am til 4pm (doors open at 10am both days)
- **Sunday 10th September** (Expo day from 9am til 4pm and clean up afterwards until done)

Please check your diaries and see when you might be able to help. New members are very welcome – we can show you the ropes. Many thanks!

July general meeting report

Report on Propagation night on 6th July 2023

Our propagation night was extremely popular. We had to set up more tables for people as we underestimated the interest. It was a full house!

Each table was supplied with all required items by Carmen, including plastic labels and pencils to label our cuttings, spray bottle and secateurs, small pots which had been bleached for hygiene reasons, Clonex purple hormone in which to dip the cuttings and old satay sticks (also bleached) which made good dibber sticks for creating holes in the propagating mix for the cuttings. Glass jars and lids came in handy – the lids to hold the

Clonex and the jars to hold water to put the cuttings in once taken, to keep them as fresh as possible. Some propagation mix was brought from Montsalvat, but we needed more! Luckily Carmen had brought a 15 litre coir peat brick and 5 litre bag of perlite and Andrew stepped in and mixed it up for us.

****Carmen's tips for cuttings:**

- Always use fresh plant material if possible.
- If it has to be held for a day or so, put the cuttings into a plastic bag and wrap the stem ends in damp kitchen paper.
- Place in the refrigerator crisper until needed.

Many thanks to Carmen, Andrew and all who helped on the evening by sharing their knowledge, bringing plant material, organising the space and cleaning up afterwards.

Photos by Ben Eaton and Cathy Mann



August AGM and meeting report

APS Yarra Yarra AGM – held on Thursday 3rd August 2023 – Report by Cathy Mann

Our 2023 AGM was held at Edendale Farm, Eltham with approximately 26 members and 2 visitors attending.

Kevin Ley hosted proceedings with his usual panache. Many thanks to Kevin.

The minutes of the 2022 AGM, financial report (2022-23) and President's report 2022-23) were accepted by the members present. All Committee positions were declared vacant, and as there was only one nominee for each position, all were declared elected unopposed.

Our President Peter Smith has stepped down from that role after 3 years, but remains on the Committee. Andrew McCann has kindly stepped up to the President’s role. Vice-president remains vacant and we welcome 2 new members to the Committee – Sonia Gatti and Suzanne Craine. Many thanks to all those who have volunteered.

We wish a fond farewell to Anita Bourke and Carmen Cooper who are leaving the Committee and our grateful thanks to them for their hard work and commitment.

Your new APS YY committee 2023-24 is as follows:

President	Andrew McCann
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Sue Gwilym
Secretary	Cathy Mann
Committee member	Suzie Gordon
Committee member	Peter Smith
Committee member	Sonia Gatti
Committee member	Suzanne Craine

The meeting also unanimously agreed on a motion to thank Peter Smith for his hard work and dedication as our President for the last 3 years. Thanks Peter!

Miriam Ford will continue to represent APS YY as our delegate to APS Vic COM meetings.

Sonia Gatti also presented a wonderful array of beautiful Western Australian plants from the Kalbarri region of WA, taken on her recent trip there. Some photos from her presentation:



Xanthorrhoea preisii



Close up of flowers of above



Grevillea annulifera – Prickly plume grevillea

Flower Table July

By Sue Gwilym. Pictures by Ben Eaton (BE), Document Camera (DC) by Andrew McCann. Thank you to everyone who brought along flower specimens for our July meeting:



Kalbarri National Park – inland



Acacia pycnantha (DC)



Nature's window – Kalbarri NP



Grevillea sericea (DC)



Calothamnus homalophyllus



Banksia spinulosa (BE)



Eutaxia microphylla (BE)



Grevillea olivacea (DC)



Grevillea semperflorens (BE)



Hakea multilineata (BE)



Phebalium woombye (BE)

Other plants featured:

Hakea bucculenta, *Grevillea alpina*, *Diplolaena grandiflora*, *Eremophila maculate*, *Melaleuca fulgens*, *Grevillea sp*, *Grevillea lanigera* form.

Flower Table August

By Sue Gwilym. Pictures by Ben Eaton (BE)
Thank you to everyone who brought along
flower specimens for our August meeting:



Acacia applanata (BE)



Grevillea "Collaroy Plateau" (self-seeded) (BE)



Bossiaea walkeri (BE)



Guichenotia macrantha (BE)



Geleznowia verrucosa (BE)



Hovea longifolia (BE)

July Garden Visit Report

Maureen Schaumann's garden in Mulgrave
9th July 2023

Expecting the Worst (weather) ...and getting
the Best - report by Peter Smith, pictures by
Jill Lulham

For some years I had heard of Maureen
Schaumann's garden but hadn't as yet seen it.
The forecast for the weekend was wild and
woolly. There had been apologies from some
of the members and driving down Springvale
Road the sky looked bleak.

Upon arriving, just on cue, the sun was
shining. Maureen, Bev and Chris greeted us,
the garden was gleaming and Yarra Yarra
members turned out.



Kunzea jucunda (BE)



Philothea (unknown from Phil Vaughan) (BE)



Rhodanthe anthemoides (BE)

Other plants featured:

Acacia sessilispica, *Boronia megastigma*, *Bossiaea
walker*, *Calytrix* (unknown from Phil Vaughan),
Grevillea petrophiloides, *Hakea purpurea*, *Olearia
homolepis*, *Petrophile linearis*, *Pomaderris
obcordate*, *Pterostylis curta* (grouping in pot)



Eucalyptus caesia "Silver Princess"

At the far end of and overhanging the front
soak was a magnificent "Silver Princess"
(*Eucalyptus caesia magna*) planted with the
aid of some rocks to anchor below, and
pruned to spare the wires above, an amazing
sight with its large flowers and weeping habit.

This is a Eucalypt whose roots allow other plants to grow happily. A bank of *Thryptomene saxicola* covered the corner beneath. A lovely Lomandra set the scene off. In the foreground *Micromyrtus leptocalyx* supplied the balance with its fine pendulous frame and its small soft, pale flowers. Underneath were Hibbertias, Dampieras and Conostylis vying for and winning our attention.



Conostylis sp

The idea of a soak seems to have benefitted some of the tricky showy species (plenty of sunshine and the occasional soak). *Thelionema caespitosum* (tufted blue lily) will provide colour later in the year. Kangaroo paws are newly planted under the eaves: it will be interesting to see how they go. Jill points out a richly coloured *Grevillea depauperata* (also known as *G. brownii*) nestled in amongst *Hypocalymma linifolium*.



Front yard with "soak" in the middle

Through the garage to the substantial back yard: a large Jacaranda, a larger Casuarina, an *Acacia cognata* and an old Callistemon cover the fence lines and screen the neighbours. A largish Eremophila divides the yard. On one side an area of lawn survives, but on the other side, after having the above ground pool removed, Maureen has created another ephemeral soak. Brachyscome, Hibbertias

and other small pretties grow around the edges

Uncommon plants noted were *Philotheca filiformis* (white, 0.8m), *Grevillea* "Poorinda Hula" (cerise, 1m) and two forms of *Acacia restiacea* (0.5-1m x 1-2m) one smaller. Raindrops drew us into the garage where the table was laden with treats. We rounded off the day listening to these three master gardeners, inspired by this lovely garden. Many thanks to Maureen, Bev Fox and Chris Larkin.



Philotheca filiformis ssp smithisana



Acacia restiacea - fine-leaved form



Members enjoying the garden

August Garden Visit Report

Garden Visit 6th August 2023 - Ray Barnes' garden, Eltham

By Sue Gwilym with pictures by Ben Eaton

We had a lot of interest from members to visit Ray's garden, with 20 showing up on the day. Some had seen Ray's garden before and wanted to see how it had progressed, others were new and realised it was a great opportunity to see a well-established garden on a challenging slope in Eltham.

Ray and Helen moved to Eltham in July 1981 and started their journey with a new house and a blank canvas for a garden. Ray has been a member of APS and Yarra Yarra since 1983 and is a life member of Yarra Yarra so there has been lot of knowledge and experience gained over the years going into the choice of plants. Ray might say it was trial and error, but there were a lot of successes to be seen and plenty of cameras out to capture the flowers.



Peter Smith had helped early on with adding large rocks at the front of the garden and Mike Williams has had a hand in helping out in the garden too over the years. The garden has recently had a bit of an overhaul, replacing overgrown and old plants with new plantings. There are several gravel paths, winding through the garden, both at the front and back, and levels of terracing either with rocks or timber to cope with the sloping ground, and there is always something interesting to discover around the next bend in the path.

A few plants I noted in flower included a lovely *Grevillea nudiflora*, which was very happily growing over a rock at the front, *Billardiera scandens* scrambling up through another shrub, *Grevillea* 'Peaches & Cream' just starting with plenty of buds to come, several plants of *Chorizema cordatum* and *Chorizema varium* dotted around catching the eye with their brightness, *Pimelea physoides* (Qualup Bells) stunning with masses of pendant flowers and a *Rhodanthe anthemoides* using another shrub to support its upward growth bringing it to waist level where we could enjoy the flowers even more. Ray had a wide variety of plants, too numerous to mention, and groupings of plants in pots lining some of the steps and enjoying the sheltered conditions of the front verandah.

The rain held off and we enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea on the back verandah enjoying the view up the garden. Our thanks to Ray (and his granddaughter Jordan) for hosting our group and very generously sharing your beautiful garden with us.



Pictures by Ben Eaton, L to R from top:
Grevillea nudiflora, *Pimelea physoides* (Qualup
Bells), *Alyogyne huegelii*, some of our

members with Ray, *Chorizema varium*,
Rhodanthe anthemoides, *Xerochrysum*
bracteatum with *Olearia homolepis*



Membership Renewals Due!

Unless you joined us after 1st January this year, your membership renewal is now due and must be paid by 30th September 2023.



All membership payments are to be actioned via the new APS Victoria online payment system, preferably by credit/debit card. If you can't pay by this method, please still renew online and you will be given directions on how to pay by EFT or cheque direct to APS Victoria.

Please log in to the APS Victoria website for renewing members:

<https://apsvic.org.au/Login/>

and use your email address and membership number to log in. We can provide you with your membership number if you have forgotten to keep hold of it.

If you have any questions or need help with your membership renewal, please call your Treasurer, Sue Gwilym, on 0401 250 331 or email yarrayarra@apsvic.org.au

On the Grapevine...

The Everlasting Gardener Workshop

You will be introduced to some simple ways of reminding your body to move easily and safely. Explore the movements involved in gardening tasks like weeding, shovelling, pruning, lifting, digging, pushing a wheelbarrow or mower.

Discover a 'less pain, more gain' approach that will keep you gardening for many years to come.

Four Wednesday evenings, 7.30 - 9pm starting August 23rd at Edendale Community Environment Farm in Eltham, Total cost: \$145, concession \$105. Numbers are limited. Book online here:

<https://feldenkraisinstitute.com.au/event/you-r-place-the-everlasting-gardener-2/>

Diary Dates 2023

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 for 2023-24:

President	Andrew McCann	0419553303
Vice President	Vacant	
Treasurer	Sue Gwilym	0401250331
Secretary	Cathy Mann	0409706610
General member	Suzie Gordon	0457084467
General member	Sonia Gatti	0423414068
General member	Suzanne Craine	0407290903
General member	Peter Smith	0425798275

Newsletter - bimonthly

Contributions for the Newsletter to the editor Sonia Gatti by **Friday 13th October 23** 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 Sue Gwilym for proof reading.

Website: www.apsyarrayarra.org.au

Facebook: facebook.com/APSarrayarra

General meetings: 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.

Vale: Bruce Grose b August 9, 1935; d July 7, 2023

Bruce was born in Melbourne and spent much of his early childhood in the bushland around the Frankston area where his love for Australian flora and fauna began. His grandparents were plant propagators which is where his passion for propagation started. He served in the Royal Australian Navy from 1953 to 1958 and was deployed on several campaigns including Malaya, Vietnam & Korea. He was discharged in 1958 due to injury. He and Margaret married in 1958 and settled in a bushland area of Eltham where they had four children and remained.

Initially, Bruce was reluctant to join the Society for Growing Australian Plants group (SGAP as it was then known) as he *was not into the science of plants I just wanted to grow them*. In the 1950s and 60s there were few places that you could buy Australian plants and so eventually, after some searching and experimentation, he joined the local SGAP group called Yarra-Yarra based in Montmorency in or around 1971 to 72.



He took on various roles in the APS YY committee including delegate to the APS Vic COM in the early 1980s. He looked after Lone members and District groups and was elected to the position of APS Vic VP in the early 1980s. He served in the role of APS Vic President from 1986 to 1988 and it was in his capacity as President that he visited many country DGs while taking family holidays into many regions of Victoria.

Bruce often talked about the support he received and appreciated from Margaret & one of his daughters with his role in APS Vic and APS Yarra

Yarra where he was a member for 48 years. Bruce received a Certificate of Commendation for his services to APS YY and Australian Plants from APS Vic in 2009.

He was awarded a Life Membership of APS Yarra Yarra in December, 2011 which was very special to him. He was a keen propagator all his life. He was passionate about Australian Mint bushes, was a member of the Mint Bush Study group from the beginning with printed copies of all their newsletters (which I inherited & are now part of the ANPSA archives). He, with family in tow, used to visit and help with working bees at the Burrendong Arboretum, Wellington, NSW where the Australian Mint Bush collection was planted by George Althofer in the 1960-70s. Bruce also discovered & registered *Correa glabra* 'Inglewood Gold'. We here at APS Vic & APS Yarra thank Bruce for friendship, service & deep and abiding commitment to Australian plants. We offer our sincere condolences to his family.

Miriam Ford (APS Vic President & APS YY member)



Correa glabra 'Inglewood Gold'
Prostanthera ovalifolia

