



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY (SGAP)

Warrnambool & District Group Inc. Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2017 No 432

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www.facebook.com/warrnamboolsgap



'Plants of the Great South West', book on plants of South West Victoria \$20, available from Kevin Sparrow at ksparrow93@gmail.com Ph: 55626217
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EDITORIAL



Hi members,

Welcome to our last newsletter for the year, our members night on Friday 24th will also be our last one for 2017.

There is still lots to go for 2017, our **Christmas Breakup BBQ** will be held at Halls this year, (127 Rooneys Road, Warrnambool) on Saturday 9th December. Mike and Liz have a great garden to have a look at after the BBQ. As usual, we will be supplying the meat, we ask everyone to bring along a plate of salad and a piece of fruit for the fruit salad bowl to share. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy. I am reliably informed that Dorothy Mattner has our usual Christmas Cake well in hand. She does a great job.

On December 23rd, we will be running a **Bunnings BBQ** as a fundraiser for our group. This promises to be very busy just before Christmas so we are looking for plenty of volunteers to help out. No experience necessary. Contact John Sherwood for more information if you can assist. (55628064)

We are looking for ideas for **speakers for next year**, any ideas anyone??

Wishing our long time member, Marg Craig, a very happy birthday for last Monday, she turned the grand age of 90 years. See page 3 for photos.

Our speaker for this month is **Michelle Casanova** talking on wetland plants. Come along to the **RSL for a meal** from 6.30pm. See you then, Kevin

We wish to acknowledge the Maar people as the traditional owners of the land on which we live and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Next Members Night Friday 24th November 8.00pm: Michelle Casanova talking on wetland plants

**Christmas Breakup
BBQ on Saturday 9th
December at
127 Rooneys Road,
Warrnambool from
12.00 noon.**

<i>Group Diary Of Activities</i>	<i>APS Vic Diary Of Activities</i>
<p>24th November - Members Night, speaker, Michelle Casanova will be talking on wetland plants.</p> <p>28th November - Committee Meeting at Halls at 5.00pm</p> <p>9th December - Xmas Breakup at Halls, from 12.00 noon at 127 Rooney's Road, Warrnambool. Bring a plate of salad and a piece of fruit to share. All welcome. More info: Kevin at 55626217</p> <p>23rd December - Bunnings BBQ</p> <p>20th January - "Pizza Lunch" at Mattners, Cudgee. From 12.00 noon. Michael will be showing off his new pizza oven. Bring own toppings, group will supply bases. Followed by a garden walk.</p> <p>1st February - "Girls Day Out" at Mattners at Cudgee. From 12.00noon. (Us blokes can have a pub crawl!)</p>	<p>NOVEMBER 25th & 26th APS Ballarat host quarterly gathering at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.</p> <p>JANUARY 2018 Hobart Tas ANPSA Biennial Conference Conference Theme: "Grass Roots to Mountain Tops". Dates: 12-20 January 2018 Venue: Hobart – Wrest Point Pre-post conference Tours: A selection of tours are being planned to King Island and to alpine and rainforest areas of the Tasmanian mainland. Information: http://www.apstas.org.au/conference.html To receive updates email asgapjan18@gmail.com.</p> <p>For more information: See page 13</p> <p>OCTOBER 20th & 21st 2018 FJC Rogers Seminar – Goodeniaceae Co-ordinated by Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants and APS Grampians.</p> <p>Monthly newsletters begin in the new year, contact Maree Goods to get on their mailing list at fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com</p>

Please submit your articles for the newsletter by the end of the second week of the month

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Public Officer: John Sherwood. **APS Reps:** vacant, **Group Historian:** Joyce Sparrow. **Supper Organiser:** Liz Halls.

Other Committee Members: Kerry Artis, Michael Mattner, Sue Sherwood, Dorothy Mattner

The APS Warrnambool & District holds meetings on the 4th Friday of each month at the Mozart Hall Warrnambool at 8pm.

APS Warrnambool & District is a District Group of the Australian Plants Society (Vic)

All members are required to also be a member of APS Vic.

Happy 90th Birthday Marg Craig

Long time member, Marg Craig celebrated a big milestone on Monday when she celebrated her 90th Birthday. Members helped her celebrate at a luncheon held in her honour on Saturday at the Lady Bay Hotel. Dorothy Mattner made and decorated a magnificent birthday cake which we all enjoyed sampling a piece of. John Sherwood made a speech on behalf of our group to wish her all the best for the day. Life Member, Coral Moore who is now 97 years of age, was also present, and it was great to be able to catch up with her.



Students Benefit From The Best - International Expert Shares Vital Native Woodland and Grassland Knowledge.

International native grassland expert and lecturer at La Trobe University, Professor John Morgan, came to a former railway line site to share his knowledge with local students on Tuesday 14th. Ten students participating in the final Federal Green Army Program based out of Warrnambool, got a first-hand, crash course in Victorian Volcanic Plains grassland species during a walking survey on part of the former Woolsthorpe railway line.

This railway line parcel is in the larger Koroit to Minhamite railway corridor that is within the Basalt to Bay Landcare Networks project “The Green Line”. The Woolsthorpe section is native grassland with woodland plants coming back to it along its 3km length.

Professor Morgan, (photo above right) joined by local botanical enthusiast and author of “Plants of the Great South West” Kevin Sparrow; Landcare Facilitator Lisette Mill, and VicRoads Environment Officer John Tunn set out to record and register the plants on the site and teach others present about them and their rarity.

Amongst plants seen flourishing in the heat were Sun Orchids, Trigger Plants, Native Tree Violet, native St Johns Wort, and Silver Banksia. Also noted were a host of signs that the native mammals and important tree species are naturally returning to the old line – showing its value as a future biodiversity corridor.

Says John: “*Vegetation on linear reserves are now the best examples of the once extensive native grasslands and woodlands that spanned from Melbourne to the South Australian border. Having escaped the plough, they now act as arks for some of the most endangered plant and animals on the plains. Their identification and sympathetic management will be crucial to retain these rare gems.*”

The Green Line at Woolsthorpe has two fenced demonstration plots within the siding area. VicRoads and Basalt to Bay Landcare are working together to build into these plots, seed orchards of local species that will be useful for future restoration and farm projects. By conducting the walking survey this week the other important and less easily restored species that the site contains also became apparent.

This education event was funded by Federal Department of Agriculture Sustainable Agriculture Grant 2016/17.

Contact : Lisette Mill @ Basalt to Bay Landcare Network Inc 04 08 712 713

Photos below right: Sun Orchid, *Thelymitra* sp. and Blue Pincushion, *Brunonia australis*



October Display Table Report by Kerry Artis

Mike Halls started our showing with the lovely *Chamelaucium uncinatum* Geraldton Wax. This plant can be grown from cuttings and is an outstanding plant for sandy soils, responding well to pruning after flowering. *Darwinia lejostyla* ‘Coolamon Pink’ is a hybrid 6' wide by 3' high, bearing very pretty bell shaped flowers, that likes good drainage and half to full sun is recommended. It has become a bit straggly so Mike is going to give it a good prune after it finishes flowering. *Banksia ericifolia*, Mike has one upright shrub and one dwarf shrub, both similar in colour and the birds love them. *Verticordia chrysanthia* Yellow Feather Flower is flowering well and will be given a prune after it finishes flowering, *Lechenaultia biloba* Blue Lechenaultia is a mass of blue and looking great on a bed of stone and white sand in a well protected spot.

Michael Mattner showed a beautiful, deep mauve *Isopogon formosus* which is 1.5m high and has lots of flowers, *Boronia heterophylla* ‘Blue Wave’ has a pretty, soft mauve flower and *Pimelea Nivea* Snowy Pimelea is 1.5m high and from Tasmania. It likes semi-shade, has dark green leaves with silver underneath and terminal heads of round, white flowers. *Banksia letophylla* comes from W.A. and grows to 2 m high

Marilyn Berry’s *Lechenaultia formosa* has a gold-orange coloured flower and is about a year old. Marilyn has had trouble growing *Lechenaultias* but this one has done very well in a tall pot. *Banksia praemorsa* ‘High Noon’ is 20 years old and never had a problem with wind off the coast. It has bright green flower spikes with dark green leaves with light undersides. The seed of *Eucalyptus petiolaris* was gathered from a tree with rust coloured flowers and given to Marilyn by Alby Lindner. She now has two trees, one a big tree with yellow flowers, and the other has pinkish-red flowers and is quite a small tree, both different colours to the parent plant. *Grevillea superba* is a prickly plant bought at the *Hakea* conference and has proved very hardy, *Grevillea ‘Caloundra Gem’* is a Queensland hybrid that is a spreading, tall shrub with beautiful blooms, honeyeaters love it.

Chamelaucium uncinatum ‘Purple Pride’ was shown by **Bob Artis**. His garden is about six months old and a number of plants are starting to flower. This Geraldton Wax is 40-45cm high and was covered in buds for weeks and is now a mass of pretty, purple blooms. *Anigozanthos* ‘Bush Endeavour’ has lots of lovely, rich red flowers and is 1.8m tall, *Grevillea ‘Soopa Doopa’* is 50cm high and will grow to 1m x 1m. It’s lovely to see the wattle birds starting to come and feed off the numerous, large, red flowers. *Pimelea* ‘White Solitaire’ is a rounded shrub 30cm high and is covered in terminal, round, white flowers.

(Continued next page)

Photo right: Some of the plants on display on our display table.



October Display table Report by Kerry Artis—Continued



Kevin Sparrow brought along lots of *Eremophila*s of which he has grown many by cuttings and finds deep, square pots very good. Some he is trying with the grafting technique. One very pretty plant looks like *E. nivea* crossed with something and he is trying to graft that one. One of Maree Goods cuttings, *Eremophila calorhabdos* (Photo right bottom) is flowering beautifully in a hot pink colour, *E. racemosa* is an interesting plant that changes colour as it opens from a bud (yellow to orange to pink—photo right) into a full blown flower, *E. foliosissima* (Photo right top) is grafted and a very pretty mauve colour, *E. maculata* is very easy to grow and is a cerise pink colour. *Chamelaucium x Verticordia* ‘Paddy’s Pink’ has a very pretty flower and Kevin has grown a number of these by cutting, *Scaevola crassifolia*, (Photo below) in the shrub form, is a mass of blue and looking very attractive. *Dockrillia striolata* is a very dainty orchid Kevin has grown attached to a board. Other *Eremophila*s were *scoparia x longifolia*, *nivea x densifolia*, *maculata x alternifolia* ‘Wild Berry’, *glabra*, ‘Yana Road’ (Photo right centre), *cuneifolia x tietkensii*, *weldii*, ‘Mackinlayi’, *maculata* in a plum colour. Other plants on show were *Callistemon pinifolia* which has green flowers, *Chamelaucium uncinatum* in the white form, *Lasiopetalum behrii*, *Chamelaucium ciliatum*, *Billardiera ringens*, *Dillwynia sericea*, a *Leptospermum* species in the prostrate form. *Melaleuca fulgens* in an apricot colour, *Pimelea ferruginea* Pink Rice Flower, *Callistemon* ‘Mauve Mist’, *Callistemon* ‘Kings Park Special’ and *Maireana oppositifolia* ‘Silver Shadow’.



Warrnambool Show Floral Display by Kevin Sparrow

Bev Bell and Joyce Sparrow represented our group last month, putting together our usual display at the Warrnambool Show. Thank you to the Friends of Swan Reserve for providing most the flowers that were used. It was disappointing that APS members didn't supply the plant material from their gardens that they usually do. Despite the request being in our last newsletter, it seems everyone forgot. Each year, Bev goes to a lot of trouble putting on the floral displays at both the Warrnambool Show and Anglican Church and if she doesn't receive adequate support from members, then these displays may not happen in future. This is a great way to showcase and promote our group and demonstrate to the general public what plants we can grow in Warrnambool and how they can be displayed. Please put it in your calendar next year when it comes up again. Thank you Bev & Joyce.



Visit To Local Naringal Reserves

Last month, 9 members went on a trip to visit some of the local reserves in the Naringal District. After meeting up at Cheeseworld at Allansford, we first travelled to the Wilton Reserve in Membreys Road. This reserve is not well known so doesn't get visited often. The entrance to it is rather overgrown, particularly with Bracken Fern but it is worth the walk. The reserve is in reasonably good condition even though a little over grown. We did see plenty of orchid leaves but no orchids. (Probably Greenhoods)

We next visited Grasstree Plains Reserve, this was fairly overgrown and in rather poor condition. While we did record sightings, there was nothing of significance to see.

Naringal East Picnic Ground, the sight of the old Naringal East School is also in rather poor condition with lots of weeds present. Quite surprisingly, there was the occasional native plant to be found.

The road reserve at the corner of Dingy Road and Ayreford Road proved to be a gem of high quality vegetation. There were lots of flowering heathland type plants to be seen. See list below. We were going on to Fenwicks Reserve but as time was running out we decided to leave this for another day.

<i>Acrotriche serrulata</i>	Honey-pots
<i>Allocasuarina paludosa</i>	Swamp She-oak
<i>Austrostipa sp</i>	Spear-grass
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
<i>Bossiaea prostrata</i>	Creeping Bossiaea
<i>Burchardia umbellata</i>	Milkmaids
<i>Centella cordifolia</i>	Centella
<i>Dianella revoluta/admixta</i>	Black Anther Flax-lily
<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia
<i>Hakea repullulans</i>	Furze Hakea
<i>Leptospermum continentale</i>	Prickly Teatree
<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush
<i>Ozothamnus ferruginea</i>	Tree Everlasting
<i>Patersonia occidentalis</i>	Long Purple-flag
<i>Poranthera microphylla</i>	Small Poranthera
<i>Pultenaea stricta</i>	Rigid Bush-pea
<i>Schoenus apogon</i>	Common Bog-rush
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	Trigger Plant

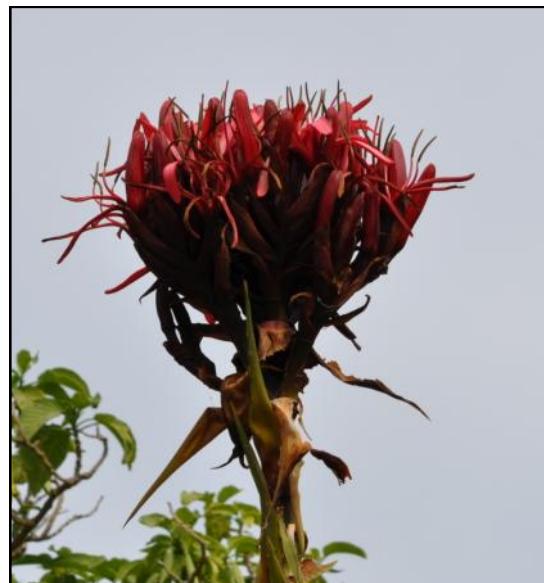


Gymea Lilies in Flower At The Warrnambool Botanic Gardens by Kevin Sparrow

Joyce and I went for a walk around the Warrnambool Botanic Gardens last week and found both types of Gymea lily in flower. The tall upright one is *Doryanthes excelsa* and WBG have a number of specimens. One of the ones pictured was in fact donated to WBG by Joyce and I some time ago now. I collected the seed well over 20 years ago from the garden of the late Bill Orford. He had one flowering for the first time in his front garden after taking a very long time to flower. I remember the story was covered in the Warrnambool Standard newspaper and in time Bill passed on some seed to anyone interested. I managed to germinate a number of seeds and one survived in a pot continually being potted on as it grew until it was getting far to big for our back yard.

It is great to see it doing so well and now in flower after so long. These occur naturally in the Sydney region and are very spectacular in flower, stems can reach up to 6 metres tall.

WBG also have a number of *Doryanthes palmeri* (Spear Lily) in flower, this variety has the long flowering stem that comes out at an angle. Still a very spectacular plant in flower although the plants can get quite large. Dorothy and Michael Mattner also have this one in flower, see next page.



Doryanthes palmeri Flowering at Dorothy & Michael Mattner's Garden

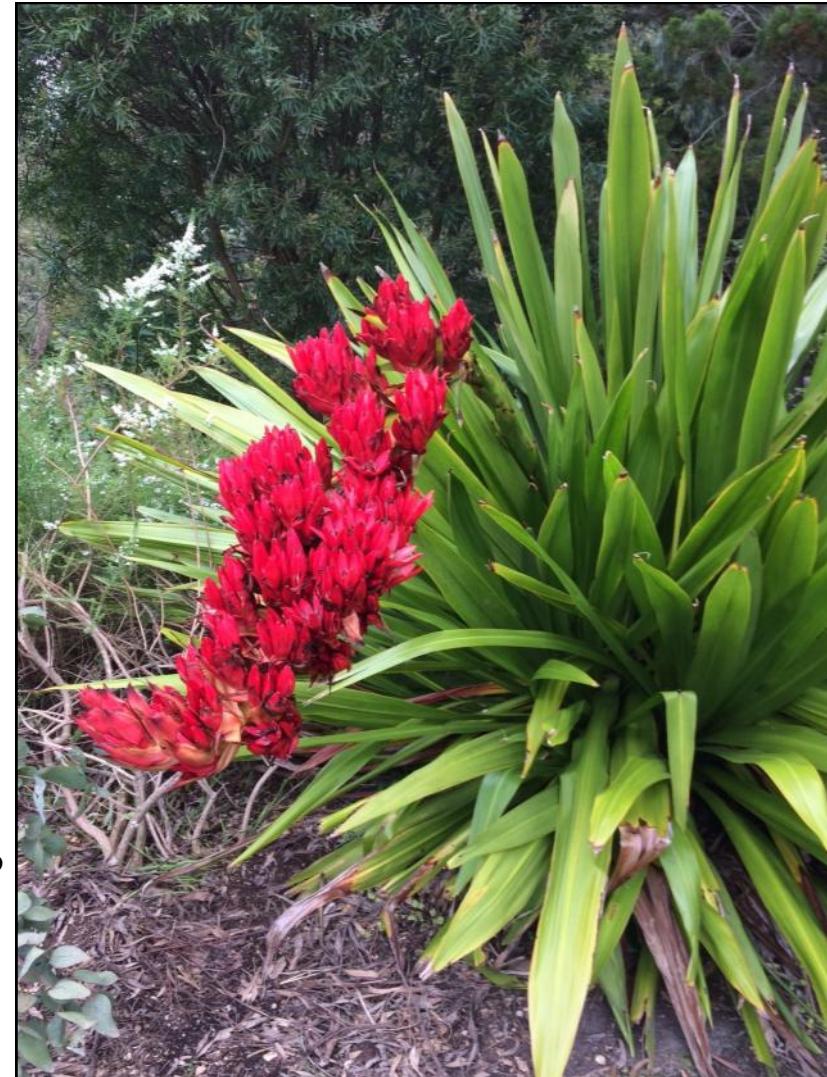
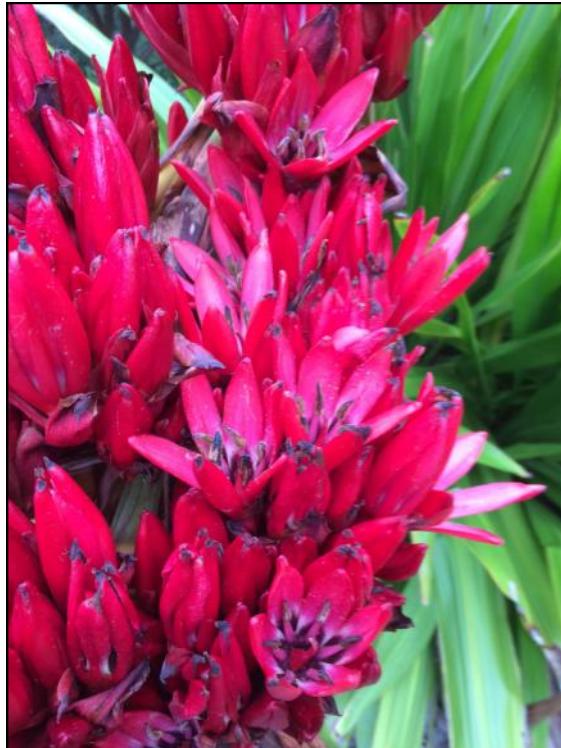
Dorothy and Michael are very proud of their Spear Lily now in full flower. *Doryanthes palmeri*, commonly called the giant spear lily is a hardy, low maintenance monocot endemic to north east New South Wales and south east Queensland. It is listed as vulnerable due to the fact that it occurs in so few regions of Australia.

It can grow to three metres tall and four metres wide. It has long sword-like leaves which form in rosettes and are ribbed to provide structural support. It has a flowering stalk, called a scape, which can grow to five metres tall. Unlike the other species in this genus

(*Doryanthes excelsa*)

the *Doryanthes palmeri* stalk droops rather than standing upright due to the weight of the flowers. Individual flowers are red or reddish-orange and are up to 10 cm in diameter. It is pollinated by birds, which are attracted to its bright red flowers. The fruit is egg-shaped and 7- 9 cm long. (www.anbg.gov.au)

If you have plenty of room in your garden, why not give one a go. Might take a while to flower though.



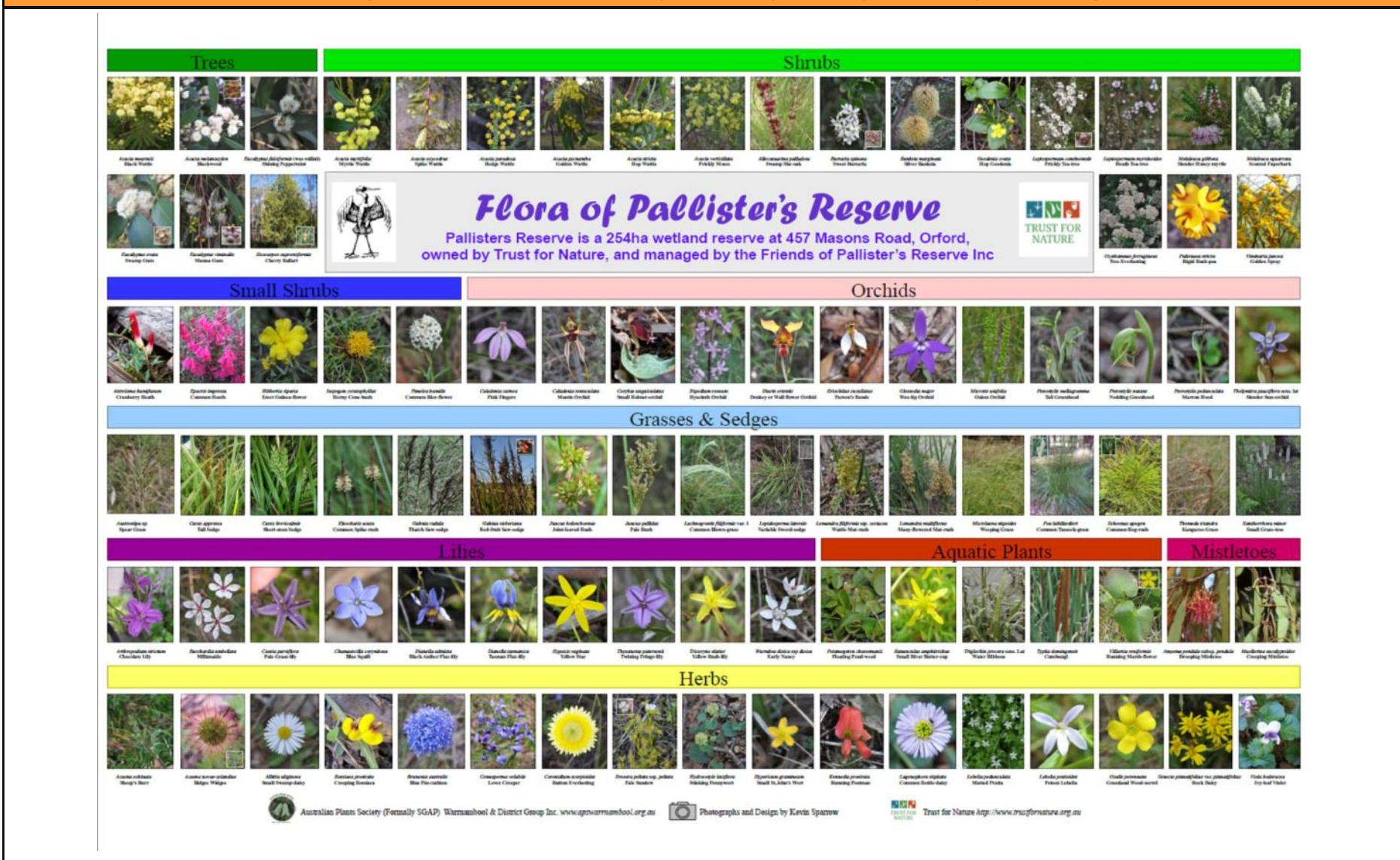
A Bit Of Guerrilla Gardening At Thunder Point by Kevin Sparrow



After a couple of false starts due to poor weather etc. members decided recently to do a bit of Guerrilla Gardening at Thunder Point. We had discovered an infestation of agave plants that were very quickly spreading in amongst the coastal bushland. These plants were probably the result of some irresponsible garden rubbish dumping a number of years ago. In all 2 trailer loads of agave waste was disposed of and our beloved native species have been given a fresh new chance at life. We will keep an eye on the site for any regrowth, so we may have to revisit the site again if this occurs.

For some reason, agave plants are very popular!! Just think how much we could have made on ebay! Better off in the tip, I say.

New Flora of Pallister's Reserve Sign - Design and photos by Kevin Sparrow



Shows, Conferences, Plant Sales & Other Items of Interest 2018

15 December 2017 – Registrations close for ANPSA 2018 Conference, Hobart.

17 March 2018 APS Wyndham host APS Victoria Committee of Management Meeting. More details in December issue of Growing Australia.

17 & 18 March Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Spring Plant Sale – 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. (Mel 133 K10)

21 April – APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale at ‘Wirrawilla’, 40 Lovely Banks Road, Lovely Banks. (Mel 431 D6). Entry is \$2 per adult or \$5 per car, children free of charge. From 8.30 am to 5.00 pm (sale is one day only). A BBQ, tea, coffee and refreshments, book sales, childrens’ activities and a great selection of native plants.

28 April APS Yarra Yarra Native Plant & Book Sale. At Eltham Senior Citizens Centre, 903 Main Road, Eltham from 10 am to 4 pm.

12 May APS Melton & Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale at St Andrew’s Uniting Church, Gisborne Road, Bacchus Marsh. From 9 am to 1 pm.

16 to 27 June ANPSA 2018 Kimberley Tour – Kununurra to Broome. Details from Nicky Zanen, email nicky.zanen@hotmail.co.uk or phone 0401975191.

30 June & 1 July APS Ballarat District Group Winter Flower Show and Sales. From 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, at the Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens.

21 & 22 July Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Spring Plant Sale – 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. (Mel 133 K10)

18 & 19 August APS Foothills host APS Victoria Quarterly Gathering and AGM.

1 September APS Wilson Park Australian Native Plant Sale, Venue to be confirmed.

8 & 9 September APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. To be confirmed.

22 & 23 September Bendigo Native Plants Group Australian Flower Show, Kangaroo Flat Primary School, 60-80 Olympic Parade, Kangaroo Flat Bendigo.

6 and 7 of October APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall. 9.30 am to 5.00 pm on Saturday, 10.00 – 4.00 on Sunday.

13 October APS Mitchell Plant Expo and Sale. Kilmore Memorial Hall, 14 Sydney Street, Kilmore. From 9 am to 3 pm.

20 & 21 October FJC Rogers Seminar – Goodeniaceae, co-ordinated by Wimmera Growers of Australian Plants and APS Grampians.

Contact email fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com or Royce Raleigh, Chairman of FJC Rogers Goodeniaceae Seminar 2018 Committee Phone 5383 6200.

27 & 28 October APS Ballarat District Group Spring Plant Show and Sales. From 10.00 am to 4.30 pm, at the Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens. A display of flowers and foliage and a large range of plants for sale. Hand painted floral art, books sales and other stall holders.

The Next Australian Native Plants Society (ANPSA) Conference—2018

The next Australian Native Plants Society (ANPSA) Conference starts on Monday 15th January 2018 in Hobart. If you haven't booked yet, please do so well before the closing date, 15 December 2017.

There are also still spaces on the 'Alpine to Rainforest Tour'.

Members who have difficulty with the electronic registration to the conference please contact Nicky on 0401975191 for assistance.

The Conference will be opened by Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AC, Governor of Tasmania, who will also host a reception at Government House on Monday evening.

Wrest Point is a beautiful setting for the conference and we will be centred on the Boardwalk overlooking the Derwent River with the talks next door in the Wellington Room. The speaker program will occupy half a day with excursions on the other half.

After lunch at Wrest Point on Monday to Thursday and before lunch on Friday all participants will board buses and rotate around all 5 excursion sites, including the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens, Mt Wellington, Inverawe Native Gardens, Kingston Wetlands, Tasmanian Bushland Garden and the Lauderdale salt marshes with garden visits en route some days.

The AJ Swaby address will be delivered on Tuesday night by James Wood speaking about 'The Seed Bank Story'. This will be preceded by the presentation of the ANPSA Australian Plant Awards when Victoria's Diana Snape is one of the recipients. The Conference Dinner is on Thursday.

The keynote speaker on Monday 15th January is Professor Jamie Kirkpatrick presenting 'Alpine Vegetation of Tasmania'.

Members who have already booked and are part-taking in tours that include visits to Tasmania's national parks, for example Bruny Island and the Rainforest and Alpine Tour, need to purchase parks passes. These are \$12 per day per person, or \$30 for a pass valid for 8 week. Passes will be available on the buses.

For more information about the conference, please visit anpsa.org.au/conference2018 or email asgapjan18@gmail.com. And if you are considering attending ANPSA 2018, book accommodation as soon as you can. January is a spectacular but very busy time in Hobart.