



Bendigo Native Plant Group Inc.

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Reg. No. A0014487F

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**BNPG is a district group of Australian Plants Society - Victoria
and Bendigo membership requires membership of APS - Vic.**

August 2018 Newsletter

Greetings -

Have you been somewhere interesting, seen something wonderful? If so drop us a line for your newsletter, or do a spiel at one of our meetings like Lorene did last month telling us of her recent discovery of Maranoa Gardens in Balwyn courtesy of a friend who only just discovered it when with grandchildren to an adjacent playground. The children found the gardens much more interesting playing chasey and hidey. Lorene was amazed by the 120 year old native garden and learnt that the current custodians are aim to grow 100 verticordias. Eric advised that getting there is easy - go to Southern Cross Railway Station and take the No. 109 (Box Hill) tram and get off at Stop 50 (Wharton St). 10 min walk along Parring Rd (opp Wharton) to the gardens.

On Tuesday it is Bush Food night! Sharni is a local Koori Park Ranger and she will be sharing her knowledge. We'll also have a flower show roster ready for your names AND we ask you start listing the names - botanical and common if known - of any specimens you may be bring to the show.

I also know that many of you attended the launch of Joy Clusker and Ray Wallace's *Fungi of the Bendigo Region* book. With luck Joy will be at our meeting with a few to sell - if there are any left! I hear they are flying out the door! They are \$20 each. Talking of selling - I will be bringing some re-useable shopping bags to the meeting and the profit from any sold will go to our group - so you best bring your wallets!

See you on Tuesday - Sandy

If you joined before December 31, 2017

Have You Renewed?

So, including the APSVIC membership, what does it cost?

Single: \$47 (\$62*) - with *emailed* BNPG newsletter
\$52 (\$67*) - with *posted* BNPG newsletter

Household: \$52 (\$67*) - with *emailed* BNPG newsletter
\$57 (\$72*) - with *posted* BNPG newsletter

Student: \$32 (\$47*) - with *emailed* newsletter

* \$15 added if you wish to receive the *optional* quarterly magazine 'Australian Plants'

We accept payment by cash, cheque, EFTPOS or EFT.
(BSB 633 000 Acct 1006 668 25 Ref: Your Name)
Renewal form with this newsletter

Thankyou from Treasurer Karin and the Committee

(APSVIC fees have increased by \$3 for single membership and \$5 for household membership. The Bendigo fee has not increased.)

7.30 pm Tuesday 21 August 2018

Bush Foods - Sharni Hamilton

Plant of the Evening - Bev Brooks

Supper - Elaine Hood & Pam Land

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30 pm 11 September 2018, 35A Murphy St, East Bendigo

July Plant of the Evening x 3!

Tony Brown

Acacias from the WA Goldfields

A. Aphylla, meaning no phyllodes (leaves), is called the 'Leafless Rock Wattle' or 'Twisted Desert Wattle'. It likes well drained soil and full sun and doesn't mind a frost. (Ian put one in and it died but not before producing lots of seedlings! It may nog have liked being planted as a large plant.

They can grow to 3 m tall and are very striking with the deep green stems and spherical flowers in late Spring.

A. denticulosa is threatened in the wild. The extremely tough rough large leaves give it the common name



'Sandpaper Wattle'. The toothed leaf margins give it the botanical name. It is a very open plant that grows to 3-4m tall and often gets bare down low so tip prune and do give it good drainage and full sun. It is drought resistant and tolerates frost to -7.



A. merinthophora with its wispy foliage and weeping form is sometimes called the 'Zig Zag Wattle'. Rods of golden flowers appear in Spring. Tony's is 1.5m tall and may get to 3 m. It is quite hardy and tolerates both light frost and dry periods.



July 2018 Presentation
Garden For The Future
Brad Crème

(Photos are from Brad's presentation or as noted)



Between January and April 2018 some 30,000 plants were planted at the newly formed Garden For The Future. And 'yes' - they were supported by drip lines! But planting in hot dry weather was not the first challenge for this project. How do you design it? Where do you keep the plants prior to planting? Do the seedlings need potting up? Watch out for the prickly ones! We know! Get the design team to plant the prickly ones!! At least the location was settled on 20 years ago when a subtle 'Stone Henge' was erected to bags the site. As for many of the questions, that became the job of TCL Landscape Design (they did the Cranbourne gardens amongst others).

With regard to design it is a Botanical Garden. In Baron von Mueller's time such gardens were straight rows of unusual plants. 100 years ago it was all about beautiful lakes and vistas. TCL are eccentric and inspire with fun and fantasy using beautiful plants as art - have a look at their website. It is expected to take 30 years before the garden is seen as complete.

There are three zones running north to south (top to bottom of above photo). Most northern zone is for plants which feature interesting form. The mid zone for fruiting plants and the southern for plants with wonderful flowers. Inside the oval path are swathes of lawn and fun and fantasy planting beds. Then there are the east west zones.

To the east (right of photo) there is an emphasis on exotic plants with a sprinkling of natives. To the west it are Aussie plants with a sprinkling of exotic. It is hoped that visitors understand that both natives and exotics can happily co-exist.

Weird and Wonderful!

Photo T. Sherwood.



On opening day 22 April 2018 over 2,000 people poured through the gates despite the scorching sun and the fact that nearly all the plants were less than 30cm tall! There was much excitement and children (including adult ones) loved climbing through and around the metal 'window boxes' (bright pink and purple things in background of photos) that are dotted either side of the oval inner pathway. Eventually the cypress and sterile agapanthus will grow up and around these boxes providing windows and doors from the path to other parts of the garden.

Yes, a good number of the plants are 'exotic' but all come from similar climates to ours and it is a means of connecting Australia to the world. And in a nut shell - Bendigo is a great place to garden if you get the plant selection right. From Aussie bush to cactus garden there is a whole world between. Planted side by side are native and exotic; simple and diverse; common and uncommon; known and unknown; slow growers and fast growers. There are whole beds that die off in winter and will be left looking bare and dead until they burst into life in spring. There are large circles of turf - a different turf in each circle and treated as botanical specimens including *Zoysia macrantha* 'Stockade' which is a great native grass to create a typical 'lawn' look. Other lawn circles have drifts of tufted native grasses (below).



Sculptures, some seats and gathering spaces are still to come. Already the events space in the middle is well used by families playing ball games and having picnics. There have been some very successful performances and over 1000 audience members can be accommodated on the undulating lawn. A purpose built Visitor Centre with a shop and café will be constructed between the Heritage Garden and The Garden For The Future. At present the new garden is fenced off from the creek but once the creek is made safe the fence will be removed allowing access to the water. Over the creek there is more land reserved for future development of a children's garden and an arboretum. A bridge will be built over the creek to connect the gardens.

Mixing Aussies with Exotics





Tour guides have learnt that *Araucaria araucana* 'Monkey Puzzle Tree' (above right) is the national tree of Chile and is enormous in jungle and is a living fossil and endangered. The tree is used for food and fibre just like the Australian *Xanthorrhoea* 'Super Grass' trees (above left). And *Geijera parviflora* 'Native Willow' or 'Wilga' (right) does well in Bendigo. The leaves can be used for dental pain; fodder for sheep; are full of protein, nutrient and fibre and burning them repels mozzies. Butterflies, beetles and birds are attracted to them and Brad believes they should be planted as street trees.



Recycling is important and there are appropriate bins around the gardens. We were all sad at the loss of so many trees at Ravenswood with the road works but at least wood from those trees has been used for seating in the new garden. Both bins and the BBQs are decorated with a stylized Whirrakee Wattle flower motive. Brad hopes that our members get involved in sourcing and propagating plants as well as being tour guides and if unable to do so then that we just use and promote the gardens and come up with ideas. He asks the Tech savvy promote on Facebook, Instagram, etc. At least we did some weeding! Yes, our subsequent tour with Brad was a great success and there was much interest in the turf that is used on golf courses around the world! Not only did we pick out weeds but we picked up tips and hints about plants not familiar to us. Oh, and what do you do with a Brachychiton leaf??? Culprit unknown!



Brad on the far left

SB



Thank you Brad for a great talk and excursion

- SB



Did You Know??

The Royal Botanic Gardens has digitised the four volume Flora of Victoria which means that 3,700 native and naturalised plants growing in the wild are now online - search vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au AND The 8,700 plants different plants being cultivated in south-eastern Australia are now online too!! Find that one at [Hortflora.rbg.vic.gov.au](http://hortflora.rbg.vic.gov.au) Amazing!

Calling all recyclers!

Did you know that you can recycle toothpaste tubes, beauty and personal care products, coffee capsules (pods) and mailing satchels here in Bendigo? There is a special drop-off point at the Bendigo Sustainability Group's office at 23a Somerville St, Flora Hill – go through the gate and walk across the front of the building, up the stairs and around the corner and look for the filing cabinet. There are four different recycling programs available in Bendigo:

Oral hygiene products – any brand and any type of tooth paste tubes and toothbrushes (non-electric).

Beauty and personal care products – packaging and containers from products such as lipstick, lip gloss, mascara, foundation, eye shadow, moisturiser, shampoo, conditioner, hair gel, hair sprays, face/body wash, shaving foam, etc.

NESCAFE Dolce Gusto capsules – this brand of coffee capsules only. Please ensure the capsules have been dried or placed in a reused plastic bag before dropping off for recycling.

Mailing satchels – any prepaid mailing satchels and padded satchels.

Further details are available from the BSG (<https://www.bsg.org.au/sustainability/recycling/>) or Terracycle (<https://www.terracycle.com.au/en-AU/collection-programs>).



SB

The July Specimen Table

Rosemarie has 30 acres at Neilborough. Her *Euc. gardneri* were planted there about 30 years ago when she ripped the ground, dug holes and watered them in. They have not been watered since. The trees are about 15m tall by 10m wide and always



have lots of flowers which the birds love. The orangey bark goes right to the base of the trunk. Ian has one that was planted straight into clay and rock years ago and it is doing well so they are tough plants. Common name is 'Blue Mallet' *Reminder - Mallees have lignotuberous base with one stem until it is damaged then it produces lots of stems. Mallets only have one stem and if damaged the plant usually dies.*



She also brought along *Euc. cinerea* known as the 'Argyle Apple'. It can be pruned as a large shrub or hedge, or left to grow to a 15m tree. The bark is fibrous and the few adult leaves elongated. It holds its round silver-blue juvenile foliage nearly all its life so if you see a big blue plant near Bendigo it is probably this one!



Hakea petiolaris was the third of Rosemarie's offerings. The common name 'Sea Urchin Hakea' references the pink and cream flower balls. There is also a sub species with finer leaves. This plant hybridises easily and grows as a large shrub or small tree.

Hakea seed can be germinated on damp paper towel placed on a ceramic plate. Fold the damp paper over the seed and seal the plate in a plastic bag and put in a warm spot with no light. Check after a few days and if they have dried out, mist with some water. When a tiny white shoot sprouts from the seed move it to some propagating mix in a mini greenhouse. The plant is ready to pop in a larger pot when it has 3 to 4 sets of leaves. Hakeas can also be propagated by cuttings and if grafting use *H. salicifolia* from eastern Australia and *H. drupacea* from the west for root stock depending on your growing conditions. PH is not critical for hakeas but BIG holes for plants are! And don't worry about feeding. (Info from Graeme Woods)



Ian's *eremophila* is a natural hybrid of the pinkish purple *E. punicea* and the creamy pink *E. forrestii*. It grows less than 1m high and the foliage is silver with greenish new growth. It was collected by Russell Wait.

Ian's Banksia 'Bush Magic' is 1m tall and is a dwarf form of *spinulosa*.



It was created by Ian's friend Ray Brown of Bulli, south of Sydney. Ian's plant suffered because the flower buds set in March when temps are high and humidity low. This year it had more shelter from the sun so is flowering well. Ray has a Banksia Garden at Bulli and Ian recommends a visit.

BNPG DIARY

Tuesday 18 September - Pruning

Fri 21 (set up) Sat 22 & Sun 23 Sept - Our Flower Show

Tuesday 16 October - Ian Evans' Great Grevillea Hunt

Tuesday 20 Nov - Marilyn (Bull) Gray's Field Trip to Mt. Augustus WA

Other Diary Dates

1 September APS Wilson Park Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Park, 668 Princes Highway, Berwick. 9am to 3pm.

8 & 9 September APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community Centre, 801 Main Road, Eltham. 10am to 4 pm. Check website <https://apsyarrayarra.org.au> for plant lists.

6 & 7 October APS Grampians Flower Show, Pomonal Hall 9.30am to 5pm Sat & 10am to 4pm Sunday

13 & 14 October Sth Gippsland Native Plant Sale and Show, Leongatha Reserve, 10am to 4pm

20 October APS Mitchell Plant Expo, Kilmore Memorial Hall 9am to 3pm

20 October ANPS East Gippsland Spring Spectacular, Lucknow Hall, Bairnsdale

20 & 21 October - 12th FJC Rogers Seminar at Horsham. To express interest email fjcrogersseminar2018@gmail.com

27 October APS Echuca Moana Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge, 426 High St. Echuca 9am to 4 pm

27 & 28 October APS Ballarat Plant Show 10 am to 4.30 pm Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Bot Gardens, Gillies St.

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club

7.30 pm second Wednesday of the month
Golden Square Hall, Old High Street, Golden Square