



APS Bendigo
Growing Australian Plants

Australian Plants Society Bendigo

April 2020 Newsletter

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*We are a district group of Australian Plants Society - Victoria
and Bendigo membership requires membership of APSVIC*

----- STOP PRESS -----

Until further notice our meetings will be in recess but NOT our gardening and overall enjoyment of Australian Plants!

Greetings -

How many had your gardens well watered by the recent rain? It was wonderful but I for one would have preferred it to have been over a longer period with a more gentle touch!

So many things have been cancelled and some *postponed*, including our meetings, but not our love of Aussie plants in both the bush and ours and others gardens. With no meeting from which to garner newsletter material I've become a bit inventive and started trawling the archives. I've also pinched things from our Facebook page and some members have thankfully sent bits and pieces by email.

But one big thing that is not cancelled - yet - is our Flower Show. So keep patting your plants, singing to them if appropriate, and otherwise encouraging them to put on a fantastic display for harvest in September. And don't forget to give them some Neutrog treats!!

Whilst checking some old newsletters for ideas I enjoyed finding articles inspired by or from members who are no longer with us. One particular 'saga' was about Ern Perkin's 'stick' and there is more about that in the pages that follow. "A stick you say? Wot Stick? You call that a stick?!"

In the past few months three of our past and present members have died. Lorraine Peat was an active member in earlier days. She was on the committee during the 90's and early 2000s and did stints as both Treasurer and Secretary. Lorraine was also involved in our group's development of the Kangaroo Flat Botanic Gardens. Hugh Mellor has also died. He and his wife Sally joined our group more recently and formed our 'overseas' contingent as they have a farm in England and a property down the south of our region. Hugh has left a big legacy in London with his instrumental involvement in the London Wetlands Centre. Lastly, John Facey has also passed away. John was very active in our group until relatively recently. He was on our committee for some years and did a stint as Treasurer and, in 2000, was the Supper Co-ordinator! He was also the seedbank curator for both our group and APSVIC for quite some years and a friend to many. All three will be much missed.

I'm glad to report that we managed to order over one tonne of Neutrog products which means we get the free delivery. If you are thing "OH NO - I forgot to order!" then never fear. I do have a few spare bags of Bush Tucker available and we will be putting in another order before the end of the year.

All that's left now is to remind everyone to start drafting your 5 - 10 minute "Plant of the Evening" talk for when meetings start up again! Yep, YOU!

- Sandy

Next Meeting - is not 21 April!

**Topic - How To Look In The Mirror, Holding a Flower,
and Have a Chat with Yourself**

Supper - Anything good in the Fridge or Pantry?

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Who knows - but it will probably be on ZOOM - yep, real fast!

Paraphrased From The Archives - June 2013

Ern's Stick or Transplanting a Red Gum

Ern saw this demonstration some years ago at an APS meeting in Albury. He told us that it is difficult to grow most eucalypts from cuttings as many eucalypt leaves produce a chemical that inhibit root formation. So for success in transplanting get rid of the leaves!

He demonstrated using an overgrown Red Gum in a small forestry tube. He trimmed the height to about 15cm, snipped off the leaves, removed it from the pot, raked away the potting mix, and trimmed off the roots. The result, a bare stick! He then put the stick in its new container and assured us that in three months the Albury specimen had grown into a bushy shrub but we'd have to wait and see if he had given this one the "kiss of death"!

Ern - always the educator - finished by saying "One of the first things I learned when joining the Australian Plants Society was that disturbance of the roots is fatal to most native plants. The Albury demonstration shows that accepted wisdom is not always correct. Often Red Gums seedlings surround the high water level after a flood so farmers may find they have lots of young plants that can be planted elsewhere".

We still miss Ern, but turn the page for a 'Stick Update'.



Meetings are held at the Golden Square Community Hall, Old High St, Golden Square, on the third Tuesday of each month from February to November. The room is open from 7.00 pm, for viewing of display specimens. Program begins at 7.30 pm.

A Noble Project

Members John and Lorene write: "Just thought you might like to see what we have done while at home. Since we can't travel overseas as we had planned we wanted to have a really positive thing for 2020 so turned our old vege patch into a 'native' garden with plants from Neangar Nursery. (They slipped in a few exotics as well but hey, why not! - Ed)

Hardiness was our criterion so now to watch what happens! Anyway we have had good fun, exercise, and given a little custom to Neangar. Isn't the rain great!"

Love from Lorene (and John!) Noble.



Lea Suggests/Requests!

Hi! I would like to ask members:

- * what is the **one** thing they would tell a native gardener who is starting out;
- * what is the **one** thing they wish somebody else had told them **or** are glad somebody did tell them; and
- * if you could go back in time **what** would you tell yourself, about gardening with natives?

Email or post your answers then we can share them and maybe I can compile them into a guide!

I have made a few information sheets:

- * Feeding Birds;
- * Water for Birds;
- * Bees; and
- * (Misuse of) Grass Clippings (grr!)

You may have seen the first two at our last Flower Show. Perhaps Sandy will send one out each month with the newsletter. (*Will do!* - Sandy) I know a couple of people have popped the Feeding Birds one into the letterboxes of nearby houses to try to discourage people from feeding white bread to birds.

- Lea

July 2013 update

Do you remember when...

...Ern Perkins massacred a Red Gum sapling to less than it's bare essentials (or so we thought).

Well we assumed it had no hope but Ian O'Halloran took it home and look at it now!

In one month's gone from a stick to a stick with tiny buds!!!



President Tony's Birdwatching

Tony has been practicing with his 'big lens' and here are some results. Bronzewing Pigeon; Eastern Rosella ; and Grey Butcherbird.



That's a busy bird bowl! Who has been to your garden?

Third Tuesday of the Month Recipe

Oh it's President Tony again! Well - it's actually his fair and wondrous wife Carol. Here is her recipe for Chocolate Zucchini Cake which we can all make at home for our supper on Tuesday night. (Committee had it in Feb!)

Firstly - source your zucchini. Carol only needs to step outside the back door to their Zucchini Tromboncino vine. You may remember Tony sneaked one onto our **native!** specimen table at the February meeting, telling us it was **Hakea zucchini** and endemic to upper Junortoun!!

Pre-heat oven to 180°. Grease and line a loaf tin with baking paper.

Whisk together:-

- ½ cup caster sugar
- ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ½ vegetable oil
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 eggs (which Carol got from their chooks!)
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- Pinch of salt

Combine:-

- ½ cup cocoa powder
- 1 cup plain flour
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda

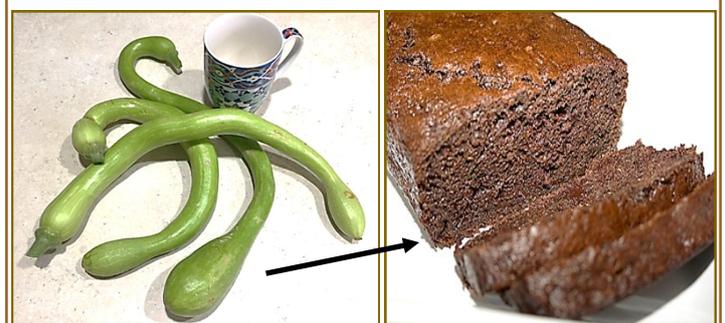
Fold wet mix into the dry then stir through:-

- 1½ cups firmly packed grated zucchini

Pour the mixture into the loaf tin. **Bake** 50-60 mins or until skewer poked into the middle comes out clean.

And enjoy!

Thanks Carol and Tony.



From Our FaceBook Page



BENDIGOADVERTISER.COM.AU

How your nature strip could fight climate change

This woman has one day to plant her new garden out after months of protest...

This story is about a Bendigo lady who wants indigenous plants growing on her nature strip. She was surprised to find out she needed council permission and that wasn't easy to get.

She stood outside council offices many times with a big placard and finally - with permission from other authorities - she was able to plant. Read the full story, with pictures, on our FaceBook page (link below) or type the words "How your nature strip could fight climate change" into an internet search engine. Or the old fashioned way! Read it in the March 21, 2020 copy of the Bendigo Advertiser.

Then there was this link shared from another site. Lots of interesting information on this one - well worth a look.



STOCKY.MCMEDIA.COM.AU

Indigenous plants of the Whipstick

'Nothing seems to rouse the passions of some Australians so much as disparaging roses, lawns, plane trees and the like. Yet I really do think that they are a blot on the landscape. I used to joke that

A couple of years ago Ian Evans added this photo of Eucalyptus synandra. It's a great pic as it shows the unusually straight-shaped flowers, long pixie caps and the very flat disc of the woody fruit capsule is also quite strange. You can also see the cream flowers that change to pink as they age.



Lea has added a list of like-minded Facebook groups on our page **APS Bendigo - Growing Australian Plants**. People might like to 'click' on those suggestions to see lots of nice positive posts. Here is the link for our page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1494640104166986/>

Have you seen any of these?

Members Joy & Noeline have shared pics of these processionary caterpillars which are the grub of *Ochrogaster lunifer*, the **bag-shelter moth**. They are a 'don't touch' beastie as the hairs can cause much pain. Some processions have 200 caterpillars and they follow a thread of silk left by the first one. BUT if they cross paths they can get confused and end up in a ball with no-where to go!



Nurseries Who Support Our Group

A bit of unashamed advertising for our members

The owners of these nurseries are APS Bendigo members and generously support our group so don't forget to support them!

Neangar
Nursery



Revegetation and Forestry Plants

8 McClelland Dr. Eaglehawk Ph: 5446 9260
neangarnursery.com.au



230 Tannery Ln. Mandurang
Ph: 5439 5384
goldfieldsrevegetation.com.au



HABITAT NATIVE
PLANT CO
Plants for your Habitat

86 Maiden Gully Rd.
Maiden Gully Ph: 0417 544 159

Current Local Native Suppliers Logistics as at 17/4/2020, subject to change.

All: Obviously the current social distancing rules apply. Please give staff and other customers the space we all need. **Remember** - it's not a social outing, please don't bring the family or the dog.

The first three nurseries are APSVIC and Bendigo members. Addresses and phone numbers above.

Goldfields Revegetation

Open: Normal hours, 9:00am to 4:30pm 7 days

Payment: Card please

Other: Please bring your own container

Neangar Nursery

Open: By appointment **only**, 9:00-5:00pm Mon to Fri
Try to avoid lunchtime

Pre-order: Please phone through your order and it will be made up ready for you.

Restrictions: Make an appointment before you come to ensure there not too many people in the nursery. No wandering about just having a look. No kids, no dogs, one person per car

Payment: By invoice with payment by bank transfer *or* cash

Habitat Native Plant Co.

Ring first or look for open sign at his gate

This fourth nursery is a member of APSVIC and Mitchell group. Being at Heathcote Peter is local to some of our members. He specializes in rare, unusual and hard to find plants. You may have met him at our Flower Shows.

Ironstone Park Nursery

Heathcote

Ph: 0419 878950

Ring first for an appointment. **Open** most days.

And lastly . . . But not least! . . .

Marilyn's Wildflowers - Mandurang

Ring to place an order for cut flowers

Ph: 0488 395 384

The Pseudo March 2020 Specimen Table

Joy has been out in the bush. She found a lovely yellow *Goodenia ovata* 'Hop Goodenia'; a deep gold coloured fungi *Gymnopilus junonius* - note the mirror reflecting the underside of the cap; and some Cranberry Heath *Astroloma humifusum* with its tiny cheerful red flowers.



Tony has been busy admiring his standard *Grevillea thyrsoidea* (left) with its large soft red flowers.



I'm not sure about the interloper in the background but this 'Sturt's Desert Pea' *Swainsona formosa* is growing happily in an APSVIC garden in Maffra!



Then from my garden (Sandy) is the 'Pin Cushion Hakea' *Hakea laurina*. This flower is only half open and is such a delicate pink. In the lower background is the lime green of a flower that is just emerging. I was particularly pleased with the shadow at the bottom of the photo. When the flower matures it will have cream coloured pins sticking out of a crimson flower.

Eucalypt of the Year 2020

Illyarie, *Eucalyptus erythrocorys*



#EucalyptoftheYear

eucalyptaaustralia.org.au



Dr. Dean Nicolle (who was to be our May speaker!) was involved in helping identify eucalypts which many people nominated for this award. The winner was announced on 23 March - National Eucalypt Day. Our member Lisa must have known it would win as she had already sent me these pictures taken on 24.11.19 of one that is growing in Lily St near Creek St, Bendigo. (She remembers the date because she could smell the local Democracy Sausage Sizzle!) Notice that each flower has four large tufts of stamens that grow from each of the four corners of the buds.



Note from APSVIC member Dallas who lives near Ringwood.

Sandy,

When I was at Karwarra Gardens on Saturday people were talking about the seed packets they got with their Growing Australian. All very pleased and commented on the way they were packed and labelled. So thought I would pass on.

Love Dallas

August 2013 update

Do you remember when ... again

Yep, that baby River Red Gum is still growing. It is still at Ian O'Halloran's and look at it now! It has leaves! So 'yes' you can transplant most eucalypts so long as you first remove all the leaves. Who would have thunk it?! (And for those who are wondering - it still thrives in 2020 in a paddock at Chewton.)



APS BENDIGO DIARY

OPTOMISM!

19 & 20 September 2020 - Our Flower Show

Other Diary Dates

Not much!

For more info search apsvic.org.au then 'members' then 'events'

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club

7.30 pm second Wednesday of the month *when allowed!*
Golden Square Hall, Old High Street, Golden Square