



APS Bendigo
Growing Australian Plants

Australian Plants Society Bendigo

July 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 -

Another month, (Membership Renewal Month no less!), and no meetings but you do get to read the most wonderful newsletter!!! And thank you for sending photos to fill the pages with much beauty and wonderment! Stu has reported that the Strathfieldsaye streamside reserve is looking great at the moment and that he saw Hakea & Correa in flower and that the water is flowing. I gather he was moving too fast to take photos!

I know many of you have been having fun watching and helping your gardens to grow but it's not just your gardens, our group is growing too. I would like to welcome new members Kristie, Jan, Greg and Grace - you will each be receiving a surprise in the mail before too long! We hope you feel very welcome despite the lack of meetings, but then there is so much more to our group! Please feel free to email or ring any time with questions, comments or share pictures of your plants (grin!).

And still on the good news front, we're having a couple of small local excursions provided that on the set days the COVID restrictions allow. The first two excursions are to the same spot in the Whipstick. Numbers will be restricted which is why multiple visits. Plans for more places to 'excute' to are in the making. (Do you like my new word for excursion?) And if you know a good spot to visit then please drop us a line.

On a more sombre note, some of you may have known Ron Powers - husband of APS dynamo Cathy Powers (held many VIC committee positions including President etc.). Ron recently lost his long and difficult battle with cancer. Our thoughts are with Cathy and all who knew and loved Ron.

Meanwhile, what's happening with your Swan River Daisies?? I planted out a clump of healthy seedlings and overnight something completely ate them to ground level. Planted another clump and same thing happened!!! Have now bought a motion activated camouflaged wildlife camera to catch the culprit - just have to work out how to work it! BUT my Brachy is very happy with her friend the *Clematis microphylla*.

Lastly - members have been asking when our next Neutrog order will be. Forms will be sent out in a few weeks.

- Sandy



Next Meeting - What's Your Guess?

Topic - Have any of your plants died from rain shock?

Supper - yep, page 2 again!

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Not much to discuss - but plenty of dreams!

EXCURSIONS PLURAL!!
(COVID allowing!)

Choose

Thursday 23 July 2020 10am

or

Saturday 25 July 2020 10 am

Same destination - Whipstick Forest, Bendigo
Spend up to 2 hours looking at one small area of the Whipstick.

Each excursion is limited to 10 participants.

No car-pooling unless members of same family.
Note that the roads are dirt but are in good order.

Members must book in by phone (0400 149 319)
or email bendigo@apsvic.org.au

MEETING POINT WILL BE GIVEN ON CONFIRMATION OF BOOKING

If excursions are overbooked then more dates will be arranged.

BYO water, food, thermos and hats to gum boots!
Home by lunchtime unless you go for a private picnic.

Just look what Tony found

in a side street on his work travels through Lockington.

Two large bushes of this Grevillea 'Superb'. They were quite old shrubs about 3-4m tall x 3-4m wide which is very large for this variety. The birds were very busy in them, even in the rain. Not from one our gardens but well worth sharing. The flowers certainly were 'superb'!



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.

In Spring Gully

Bev B writes - "Just a few pics from Spring Gully. Some dwarf greenhoods that are growing in my garden. Joan and I came across a few tall greenhoods (we think) on a walk around Diamond Hill and there are many large patches of greenhood orchid basal leaves this year as a result of a little more rain. Some other nice surprises are yellow hibbertia and pale pink and white Philotheca (Bendigo Wax). Cheers Bev."



Nasty Nasty Weeds! Alligator Weed

Alternanthera philoxeroides

'State Prohibited Weed'
'Weed of National Significance'

Grows aquatically or terrestrially. May form a floating mat or be rooted but has surface growth.

Flowers January-March are silver/white in heads 1.2-1.4 cm diameter on 2-7 cm stems growing from leaf axils.

Leaves are dark green, smooth and waxy. 2-7 cm long and tapering at the tip. Growing in opposite pairs along the main stem with veins clearly visible.

Stems 10-70 cm long, yellow to dark green and can be simple or branched. Usually hollow and forming large dense mats.

Highly invasive and destructive. Chokes waterways, depletes oxygen and collects sediment.

Spreads mainly from plant pieces in water or carried on boats/vehicles.

Report to Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning.

Control by spray or mechanical removal



Membership Renewal!

APS Vic has decided that they will waive the Victorian component of the 2020/21 fees for members who are suffering financial hardship due to Covid-19.

If you have difficulty renewing your membership because of financial stress caused by the Corona Virus, please contact our treasurer Karin to discuss your options in confidence.

Ph:0400 625 089 karin@harding.id.au

Fees for APS Vic and Bendigo are now due and renewal forms have been emailed or posted to all members.

Current Fee Structure:

\$47 Single, emailed news	(\$35 APS Vic; \$12 B'go)
\$52 Single, posted news	(\$35 APS Vic; \$27* B'go)
\$52 Household, emailed news	(\$40 APS Vic; \$12 B'go)
\$57 Household, posted news	(\$40 APS Vic; \$27* B'go)
\$32 Student, emailed news	(\$26 APS Vic; \$12 B'go)

Plus the optional \$15 Australian Plants magazine (Growing Australian mag is included in your membership)

Renewal form has been sent with this newsletter.

* Note that the price for posted news has risen in accordance with a motion moved at our last AGM. The rise reflects the current cost of printing and postage.

Third Tuesday of the Month Recipe

Lea Harris

Hedgehog & Date Slice

125g unsalted butter	25g sugar
3/4 cup chopped dates	2 tbsp coconut
2 tbsp cocoa	1 egg
250g plain biscuits (Milk Arrowroot or Marie)	

1. Line the base and sides of a slice or lamington tin with baking paper and set aside.
2. Heat the butter in a small over a low heat for 5 minutes or until melted. Set aside for a few minutes to cool.
3. Meanwhile, place the biscuits into a zip lock bag, and push out all the air before sealing. Use the end of a rolling pin to carefully crush the biscuits into rough pieces.
4. Place the sugar, coconut and cocoa into a bowl. Pour over the melted butter and combine well.
5. Beat the egg and add with biscuits and dates to the bowl and mix well until everything has combined.
7. Press firmly into the prepared tin with the back of a wooden spoon, and refrigerate for 30 minutes or until firm.

Topping

200g dark chocolate, chopped
50g unsalted butter

8. Place the butter and chocolate in a heatproof bowl over a saucepan of simmering water. Stir regularly until the chocolate and butter have melted and combined.
9. Pour the chocolate mixture over the hedgehog, and transfer into the fridge for 1 hour or until completely set.
10. Cut the hedgehog into squares and serve. Store in an airtight container in the fridge.

Variation: You can jazz this up by using ginger biscuits. You can use walnuts instead of the dates, or a mix of both.



Q & A Corner

June asks - I would like to buy some eucalyptus plants and other natives that suitable for foliage. How can I get discount?

Answer - If you look at the APSVIC website there is a heading 'Nurseries and Public Gardens'. Click on that it and it brings up a map showing specialist native nurseries. Those that are red offer a discount. Discount amount varies but if you click on the red symbol it will display details. To claim the discount show them the envelope of your *Growing Australian* magazine which will have your membership number and expiry on the white address label. Remember that the discount may only apply to plants.

Secondly June asks - do you know anyone selling potting mix in bulk? Or does anyone have a recipe?

Answer from Ian E - This depends on the quantity required. You can buy truck loads 20m³ + but storage then becomes a problem as well as leaching of fertilizer and Ph balancing elements. If the potting mix is exposed to rain the added lime will leach out and the decomposing Pine bark will lower the Ph and the mix will become acidic.

You can buy in 1m³ or 2m³ bulker bags blended to suit Australian plants, with or without fertilizer, this is how I buy it however the extra freight and unloading can be a disincentive - you will need truck access and a forklift to unload or pick it up yourself in a trailer from the freight depot 1m³ will weigh about 400-500 kgs. I would not buy from a landscape supply yard. They will only have 1 type, probably a general mix suited more for veggie garden planter boxes.

Along with many other nurseries and garden suppliers **Ashley at Goldfields Revegetation** sells bags of commercial potting mix suitable for natives and he reminds us that all potting mix must be handled with care as it can harbour Legionnaire's Disease.



Now to 'Name that Tree!' Carol B took this photo at their home in Junortoun. Hubby Tony wrote, "It's the Yellow Gum - a tall smooth-barked white gum. *E. leucoxylon* I guess." Well! Those who have just done the international online Eucalyptus seminar will know that *E. leucoxylon* has flowers in groups of three which is just one way of narrowing the identification. Also learnt that Americans find it hard to cope with its common names 'Yellow Gum', 'Blue-gum' and 'White Ironbark'. It is thought that these local names refer to the bark which can be yellow, grey-blue or white. (They also pronounce *ficifolia* (*fikifolia*) as *fizzy-folia*!!!!!!) Proper name is from the Greek *Leuco* - white, *xylon* - wood. So Carol, how many flowers in each group???

Nurseries Who Support Our Group

A bit of unashamed advertising for our members

The owners of these nurseries are APSVIC 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 9/6/2020, 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! . . . And a Member!!

Marilyn's Wildflowers - Mandurang

Ring to place an order for cut flowers

Ph: 0488 395 384

June and July in our gardens!

Tony is on a roll and enjoying 5 y.o. *Acacia merinthophora* 'Zig Zag Wattle' in his garden along with *Correa reflexa* 'Fat Bastard'! It is a grafted plant from Phil Vaughan. The bright red flowers with yellow tips are very plump!



His *Hakea orthorrhyncha* shrub 'Bird Beak Hakea' (referring to the straight beak on the seed capsules) is 2.5m x 1.5m, and about 10 years old. Both the hakea and acacia are happily growing in a hot gravelly positions.

Hakea Bush (below) Red flower detail (inset).



Now it's all grevilleas! Firstly from Tony, two self-sown *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* hybrids on their block. One with red flowers and the other with green flowers. Note how the foliage resembles rosemary.



This local *G. alpina* has red and yellow flowers but flower colours range from cream to apricot to orange and to red. Whipstick ones are mainly green and cream.



Tony's last grevillea is a red toothbrush form, name not known. Not to be out done, Janet Ji shows off her Grevillea 'Sea Spray'. It is 3 years old and doing just as ordered - 'spraying' out and looking beautiful across her paving. It is a natural hybrid of *olivacea* and *preissi*. Flower detail below left.



APS BENDIGO DIARY

Excursions (see front page)

19 & 20 September 2020 - Our Flower Show - looking doubtful

Other Diary Dates

Not much to report in the near future!

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