

NEXT MEETING

YES, AT LAST, THE FIRST POST COVID MEETING!

Tuesday 30th June from 10am

Visit Ross and Carole McGregor's garden.

201 Graces Hill Road Great Western

NEXT MEETING

Initially this garden visit was booked for after the June meeting and talk on Banksias with Kevin Collins. The committee have thought that garden visits following a speaker could be interesting, especially if the speaker can stay and do a walk and talk. The speaker is unavailable but we can still have the garden visit, and the McGregors have lots of Banksias!

Hopefully our program for monthly meetings can re commence soon.

How to get there

Graces Hill road is off Moyston to Great Western Road. There is a sign at the gate that says 'Sugarloaf McGregor and Neumann'. (Neumanns enter their property through McGregors' place). The house is 600 yards south of Graces Hill Rd. Continue on over the stock grid. Do not take either of the tracks off to the right.

- Please bring your morning tea including a cup and a chair.
- Please adhere to social distancing rules and hygiene advice.

Banksia 'Clayton's' Talk by Andrea Shelley

Kevin Collins from WA was going to talk about Banksias at our June meeting. He is still hoping to visit our area at some time in the future when the borders are opened to travel east.

I have written a prelude to his talk, I'm sure Kevin will give us more information about Banksias which I have left out.

Part A:

Did you know?

- * That *B.vincentia* is Australia's rarest banksia, it was found near Jervis Bay NSW in 2008 and formally identified in 2014.
- * That honey from *B.integrifolia* is used in an ice cream.
- * That the Banksia book by Kevin Collins, Kathy Collins and Alex George has been revised and is available for sale. Seventy nine known species are described and illustrated.
- * That Banksia wood was used to build Matthew Flinders 'cutter' in Sydney in 1802.
- * That Carl Linnaeus described the genus Banksia as a tribute to Joseph Banks.
- * That a banksia was grown in Josephine's (wife of Napoleon) garden in France.
- * That Graeme Wood's (who gave a talk on Banksias to GG a few years ago) advice on how to grow Banksias is just plant them in the right spot and they will grow!

* That a 100 year plus *B. integrifolia* is growing in an Abbey Garden on the Isles of Sicily.

* That the favourite banksia shown at the Pomonal Native Flower show is *B. coccinea* grown by Terry and Pauline Burke .

* That Canberra Botanic Garden is opening a new Banksia Garden which will contain some rarely seen Banksias.



B. coccinea

Part B:

B

baueri - have large woolly flower spikes; can be used as an understorey plant and a border in a garden. Its musky scent attracts small marsupials. Propagated is from seed. The flower is used by florists.



B. baueri

A

ashbyi - has bright orange flowers, relies on fire for regeneration from seed. Is a good screening plant and attracts birds. Good as a cut flower but colour will fade.



B. ashbyi

N

nutans - known as the nodding banksia as it has pendulous flowers. These smell like onions or garlic. Its nectar attracts native birds. Can look good growing in a hanging basket.

K



B. solandri

kingii - is an extinct species. Its preserved fruiting 'cones' and fossil leaves were found in a Tasmanian tin mine.

S

solandri - flowers are soft, can be brown, whitish, and greyish with pink or purple limbs. It is known to smell like desiccated coconut or burnt toast. Moths at night and blowflies by day are attracted to this plant. Propagated from seed and can be grated onto *B. integrifolia* rootstock.

I



B. integrifolia

integrifolia - known as coast banksia. It is found on the east coast of Australia. Propagated is by seed, cuttings and suckers from roots. The coastal shrub is good as a hedge or screening plant. Its yellow flowers are enjoyed by nectar „loving birds and seed eating parrots. Can be grown as a tree, shrub and ground cover.



B. nutans

A

attenuata - as bright yellow flowers and buds which are emerald green. Both are used by florists. It is useful to grow as a windbreak. Propagated is from seed. If you like a good, peppery Shiraz, you will enjoy a whiff of this flower.



B. attenuata

References:

'Banksias' Kevin Collins, Kathy Collins and Alex George. First edition 2008

'Gardening Australia' magazines donated by Wayne.
Numerous websites.

Note: Warning the above information may be used in subsequent APSGG puzzles and quizzes.

A Walk Around Our Garden by John King

Our Grampians APS group had some garden visits planned, but the corona virus put paid to that for the near term. I'd still like you to join me in a chat and stroll around our garden.

When we first settled into our property in 2014, we were surprised at the lack of a garden; bracken encroaching on the house, but not much garden to speak of. I mean, everyone has at least a lemon tree, don't they? Something given as a house-warming present, even if you're not garden-inclined. There were a few trees - an oak, an ash, a beautiful bounteous mulberry, an apple, not to mention a hardy rose bush. There were some bottle brushes around a seasonal pond near the house, a large Silver Banksia (*B. marginata*) and hidden behind it a Victorian Silver Gum (*E. crenulata*), but that was about it.

A Scottish friend of mine doesn't have pictures of lochs or The Monarch of the Glen on his walls, but Australian landscapes. In his back garden he grows native seedlings for TreeProject. He has embraced our landscape and flora. So too has my wife Jocelyn. She hails from England originally, but has adopted our natives so much so that I haven't heard her express so much as a wish for a "cottage garden" here. She, as much as I, has been the driving force for us establishing a garden of native plants.

We are neither of us botanists nor experts in any way, though our knowledge is increasing, bit by bit, and we are now familiar with most of the species on our property. I am attracted to our native plants because of a deep-seated connection, an affinity, with our country and this part of Western Victoria in particular. This makes me predisposed to appreciate their beauty and the habitat they furnish. When watching Gardening Australia, I wonder at someone's lifelong obsession with begonias, for instance, when a myriad of indigenous species are there to suit all tastes. Does it indicate a lack of connection to our country; to our biodiversity?



Anyway, we started planting. Mostly specimens from the then nearby Handscombes and from the Marriotts; then APS raffles and the odd meeting-night purchases, and of course from various nurseries. We created a raised rockery to the SW towards the home dam, next to a Red Gum and that large Silver Banksia. There was already a mound there and we banked up local sandstone rocks from a pile

left near the house. In went a *Thryptomene saxicola*, you know, the low spreading one with the dainty pink flowers from late winter and through spring. Next to it a hardy *Correa alba*, with its tough shiny olive leaves and white tubular flowers, a *Philotheca myoporoides* with its pretty open-petalled white flowers much-liked by insects, a *Crowea exalata*, *Hypocalymna angustifolium* (a favourite of mine) and a *Pimelea*. Yes you're right, croweas and pimeleas like a bit of moisture and may not be suited to a raised rockery bed, but they have survived

for five years now, I think helped by the afternoon shade provided by the surrounding trees. The pimelea has actually seemed to die off completely in dry times, but then sprouts leaves again from seemingly-dead branchlets, causing us not to dig anything up that looks dead, without giving it a chance to come good. We do do supplementary watering before and after hot spells, but have not installed any garden irrigation.

You think the garden's coming along? We didn't think so at first. Thought it was surviving in suspended-animation. Surely nothing has grown. But then, when you look at those grevilleas and banksias, correas and callistemons, they were once tubestock; of course they've grown. Like the trees we have planted in the paddocks (grown from seed on our property), they sit for a couple of years, no doubt establishing some sort of root system before putting on above-ground growth. Usually if a plant survives its



first summer, it's going to do ok. That Grevillea Lady O near the rockbed is about to burst into flower from a profusion of buds. The other day I rounded the corner of the house attracted by much twittering. There were about 10 New Holland Honeyeaters surrounding the bush. Next moment about 15 more flew out from within it. About 25 birds in one 2m x 1.3m bush that wasn't even in full flower yet. Heaven help us when it is! Then today a flock of 10-or-so Brown-Headed Honeyeaters came through the garden and took a fancy to Lady O. A lone New Holland managed to chase every one of them off, though the effort required was something else.

We have grouped 3-4 plants in small beds around the house, isolated from one another and then protected from resident wallabies by ring-lock fencing supported by rusty star pickets. Jocelyn would like the fence around the house block raised so that we can remove the bed fencing, but I must admit that I like the animals coming through. That black wallaby there is Molly. She will happily accept an apple core from your hand, though we don't generally feed wildlife. A few birdbaths are a must, however.

Around the northern driveway side of the house now. A long bed with a wooden fence behind it, good for kangaroo paws, which appreciate the water run-off that ends up in the pond behind the bed.

The Westringia "Wynyabbie Gem", *Petrophile biloba* and *Callistemon "King's Park"* also seem happy there. I can't tell you how much back-breaking work went into removing the agapanthus that choked the bed beforehand. Repeatedly whacked it with a log splitter, I did. Threw it in a pile near the compost bins behind the shed ... it flowered this past summer. Will have to dispose of it once and for all ... somehow. We're now planting along the driveway, having cleared that area of bracken, bracken that has proved a good mulch over the years - mow it down using a Greenfield ride on with a catcher attachment. Then there is that area beyond the citrus orchard to the west of the house, with some large messmates dominating the centre. We've strung a hammock under them between two blackwoods and it is a delightful place to be on a warm afternoon. We call it the banksia garden, though quite a few of the banksias planted there have not survived. The *B. blechnifolia* is doing well, as is the *B. integrifolia*. It will be nice when those *Allo casuarina grampianas* mature and we can listen to the wind blowing through them. Beverley Grace let me have the seeds from which they grew.

It would be nice to take a wander around your garden. What are your successes and failures, what are your favourites, why do you like your garden, what would you change? Send something in to Phil at grampiansnewsletter@apsvic.org.au, something that will give us a tour in mind, if not in body.

Making a Floating Island! Clive & Catherine

When Catherine's Uncle visited us in 2017 he remarked that it was a shame none of our Dams had islands. When I commented that it was a big job to construct one he said "why not make a floating island?"



Frame of 90mm storm water pipe

We did the inevitable Google search and came up with quite a few suggestions/options. Floating islands are used for three main purposes (1) growing aquatic plants, (2) wildlife habitat and (3) water purification – a large well planted island can remove nitrate and phosphate from water bodies, some groups actually harvest the vegetation to increase the level of removal. If you live in the USA you can buy ready made floating islands made from recycled plastic, in Australia the only option is to make your own.



With plastic trellis support

We adapted a design that used a frame constructed from 90mm PVC stormwater pipe, this is relatively cheap and easy to use. The original design places sealed plastic drink bottles in the pipe as back up buoyancy but we did not bother with this. We covered the frame with plastic trellis, using cable ties, to provide support and finally covered this with a double layer of geotextile (Bunnings) which can be thought of as a highly durable felt.



Planting. For large sedges/rushes we cut a hole through both layers of geotextile and simply pushed the root ball part-way through the trellis. For smaller plants we cut a slot in the top layer of geotextile, put in a couple of handfuls of potting compost, and then pushed the root ball into the slot. The plants we used (and on our earlier island) were *Centella cordifolia*, *Juncus planifolius*, *Juncus continuous*, *Mentha australis*, and *Ranunculus glabifolius*.



Planted and launched

On launching the island, it became immediately obvious that the trellis alone did not provide adequate support as most of the surface slumped below water level. To correct this, I sat a frame made from star pickets and fence spacers under the trellis. This worked well and provided areas that sat in and above the water.

Growth was initially slow but then took off so that now, 2 years after planting, the island is a solid mass of vegetation, both growth of the original planted but also from extensive seedlings. In



At launch, April 2018



After 1 year



After 2 years

hindsight we could have used fewer plants. It may also be an idea to have separate islands for the larger rushes/sedges as these tend to dominate.

We recently made a MarkII, utilising plants that we thinned from the original island. The design was similar to the original except we were able to sufficiently stretch the plastic trellis to remove the need for additional support. Also, we planted everything by cutting a slot in the first layer of geotextile, rather than pushing root balls all the way through.

Plants do really well on the island, flower profusely, and regenerate well from seed. Birds seem to give it a wide birth, perhaps because it moves on its rope anchors. However, when thinning the island, the other day Catherine found a hatchling Eastern Snake Necked Turtle – nice to know something other than the plants uses the island!



Found on island

Anthea sent in these lovely fungus pictures. Can anyone put a name to any of them?



Botanic Garden Report

So much to report on since I last wrote. That report was just before the pandemic hit, so there are a few changes. The OutBeyond group won't be bringing their Asian University students for quite some time I expect, and we thought we ought to cancel our working bees. However we kept the garden open, albeit with a warning sign, and several of us found it a relaxing place to work as exercise while keeping a safe distance apart. Nevertheless quite a bit of work has been done and more will happen in the next two weeks.

The Halls Gap Historical Society donated us a seat to go beside the memorial to Daniel Sullivan. Who was Daniel Sullivan? you ask. He was a school teacher at Moyston who collected Grampians plants for von Mueller. Some time you should ask Janet Witham to talk about him at a meeting. The memorial used to be in the caravan park but had become almost invisible, so we moved it into the garden and will soon be adding a plaque with more information about him. In the meantime you can sit on the seat which is made from recycled plastic and look up at Mackey's Peak. We were successful in obtaining a small grant from the Northern Grampians Shire for new noticeboards. They arrived last week and we have started to install them in our shade shelter, We'll be using them for what we used to have on the rear of the noticeboard near the Venus Baths gate, thus freeing that area up for a different purpose.

Now we are hard at work applying for grants from DELWP for the garden. WAMA were successful last year but we weren't able to apply in time. So we are now working hard on this. We are applying to have electricity connected so we can have power for welders, kettles etc, and lights. In addition we hope to install solar panels on the roof of the shade shelter. We are also applying to install more information about indigenous knowledge and use of plants, including a mural on our shade shelter wall and other art works on our rainwater tanks as well as signs near some of our plants. Then we also want to upgrade and extend our watering system to cope with climate change. So pretty ambitious and lots of work describing what we want and why, and chasing up quotes etc but we hope it pays off.

We still have some dangerous dead or dying trees, so may need to close the garden again for a couple of days when the tree surgeons set a date for the work.

Margo Sietsma

Kevin and Sandy's new garden continues to develop:



See what happens when you watch the grass grow



A 'chuck out' from Bunnings costing \$2 Pimelea Physodes



A close up of the flower

A few pics of our hall garden taken Sept 2019 – just have a look at the growth in the last 12 months!! Grev tenuiloba, G maxwellii and Gramps Micromyrtus ciliata. Both Grevilleas are listed as Endangered!!

Neil



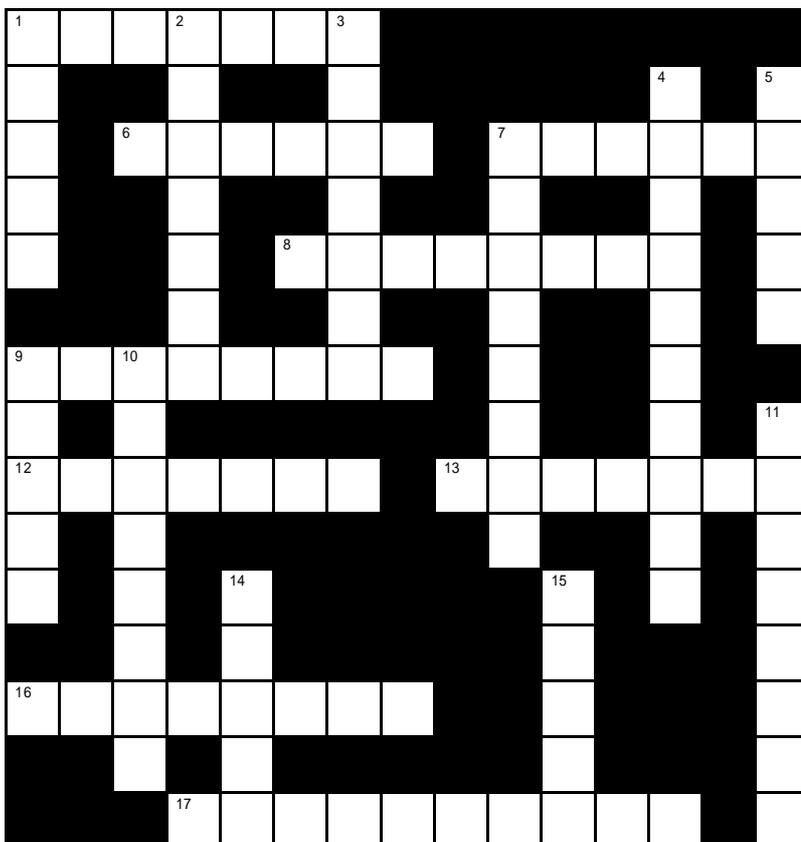
Grevillea maxwellii and *Micromyrtus ciliata* Grampians form



Grevillea tenuiloba

BELOW IS THE FIRST OF THREE BONUS PUZZLES. MORE ON PAGES 11 AND 12
PRINT THEM OUT ENJOY THE CHALLENGE!

Banksia Crossword



ACROSS

1. Elegant Banksia
6. Woolly Banksia
7. Red Lantern Banksia
8. Rose Banksia
9. The only Banksia found solely in the arid zone
12. Bird's Nest Banksia
13. Tropical Banksia
16. Stirling Ranges Banksia
17. Porcupine Banksia

DOWN

1. Banksia first seen by Edward John Eyre
2. Bull Banksia
3. Saw Banksia
4. Yellow Lantern Banksia
5. Formerly a Dryandra with long, coarse hairs
7. Scarlet Banksia
9. Swamp Banksia
10. Grampians / Rock Banksia
11. Prostrate Banksia
14. Mountain Banksia
15. Southern Plains Banksia

Information sent by Chris Clarke, APSVic President:

iNaturalist

iNaturalist is a wonderful citizen science community and data base. You may be aware of Natureshare - a site for observations of wild things in Victoria that was initiated by the late Russell Best - past APS Vic research officer. All Natureshare observations are now being migrated to iNaturalist. All the people who added observations of flora and fauna on Natureshare can easily have them transferred to iNaturalist by setting up an iNaturalist log in then e-mailing to have the transfer done.

People who didn't use Natureshare can easily create a new log in at iNaturalist and start posting photos of wildflowers, birds, butterflies, insects, reptiles, fish, gastropods – whatever wild thing takes your fancy. It is easy to use and is a great way to learn more about our flora and record sightings from our APS trips. You can join the Natureshare project for your Victorian observations. Experts on iNaturalist will confirm your identification or add an ID if you have not. If you are confident of the species you can verify other people's identifications. You can add questions and comments and send messages to other users.

Ideally your photo will have the features needed to identify the plant – leaves, flowers, fruit etc. With plants – flowers and leaves really help. With fungi – the underside gills are important. I find it helps if your camera has GPS but you can pick the spot you saw things on the map yourself if you are sure – or use a phone photo with GPS.

Once verified your observations are uploaded to the Atlas of Living Australia and become an important part of our scientific record of all living things in Australia. So far there are over 1 million observations in Australia. A very important resource.

You can search iNaturalist by the map, the species, the person posting or just browse.

This is spot to explore iNaturalist - <https://inaturalist.ala.org.au>

Here are the Natureshare project observations for Victoria -

<https://inaturalist.ala.org.au/projects/natureshare-victoria-australia>

If you join you might want to give a hand confirming the Natureshare IDs!

Cheers,
Chris Clarke

Some gems from Neil Macumber's garden:



Correa reflexa Split Bells



Templetonia retusa



Diplolaena andrewsii

Melaleuca 'Pomonal Purple'

Our founding President, the late Glyn Sago discovered this beautiful local plant many decades ago, but never did anything much about promoting it. However he did propagate it and gave numerous plants to a number of our early members of the Grampians Group. The original plant, growing on Pipeline Rd subsequently died out, so it was fortunate that Glyn propagated it.



The beautiful bright flowers of
Melaleuca 'Pomonal Purple'



Melaleuca 'Pomonal Purple' compared with typical
Melaleuca decussata. Note the flowers are not only
deeper, but larger than the usual plant!

At one of our recent committee meetings it was recommended that we should register this beautiful plant that was discovered here in Pomonal.

Glyn never gave the plant a cultivar name, so I have now registered it with the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority (ACRA) as Melaleuca 'Pomonal Purple' in recognition of its natural original home.

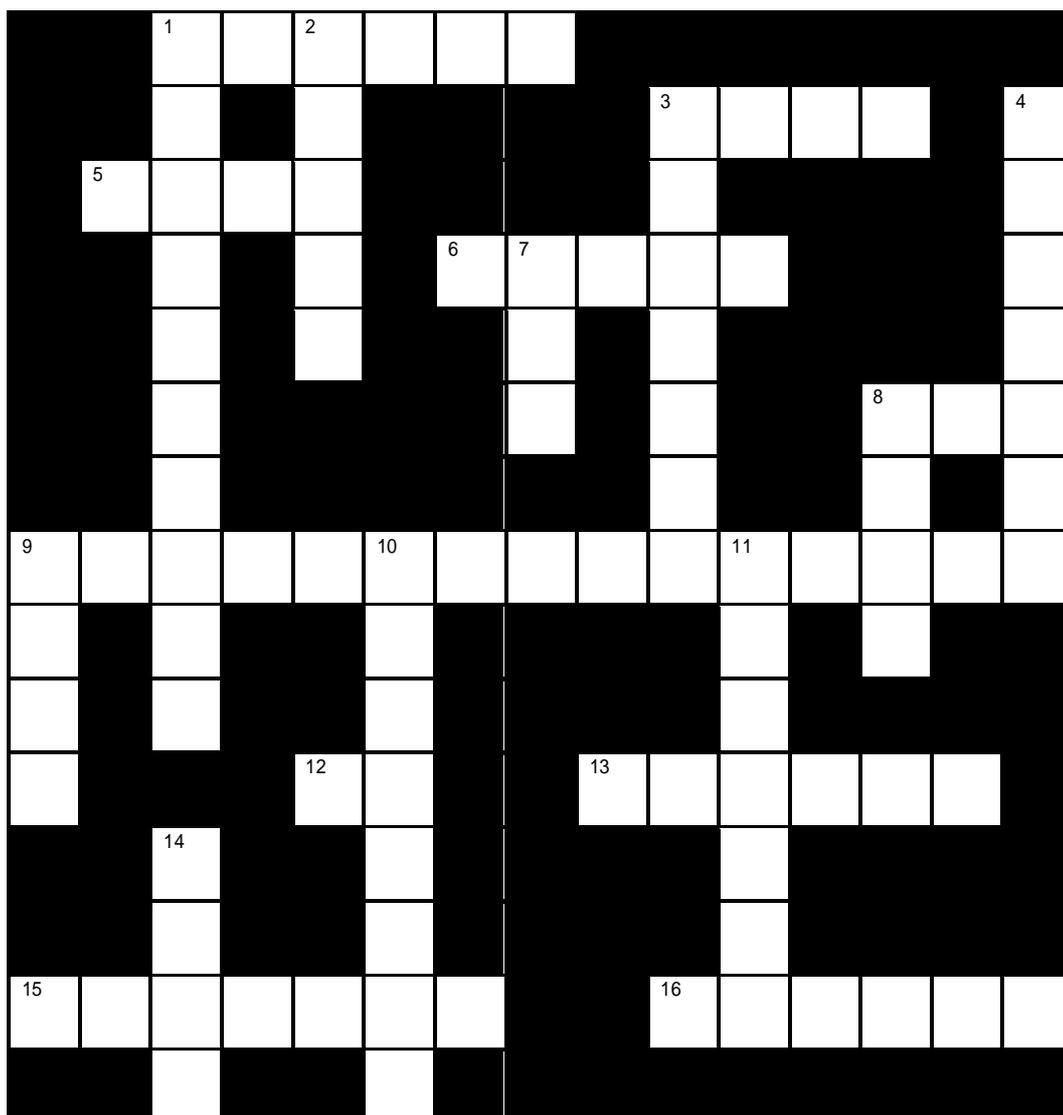
Phil Williams advises that at the last group propagation session, quite a number were propagated for planting around the town, as well as for members' gardens. I will also bring material to our next meeting so members can get some to grow their own!

We are very fortunate that the registration fee of \$100 has been waived by ACRA as I am the APS Vic Rep on the ACRA board. If any member has any other distinct forms of plants that they think are worthy of registration please let me know and we can get them registered as well.

These new plants could then be group propagated and advertised and sold at our flower shows! Could be a good way of subsidising guest speakers for the show! Let's know what you think?

Neil Marriott

Banksia Trivia Crossword



ACROSS

1. A common word uttered by Dame Edna.
3. Fauna species with wings that likes 13 across.
5. My name is that of an exotic plant - 'Banksia ...'.
6. Do this to keep me under control.
8. Big ??? Banksia Men.
9. I am found on top of a cake (8,7)
12. Most Banksia species are found here (abb).
13. The liquid from Banksia flowers.
15. Baby's room or popular with gardeners
16. I am part of the common name for a Banksia species and a game played in Melbourne in January.

DOWN

1. Grevillea's don't like too much of this.
2. Fire aids in the release of these.
3. Topic of the cancelled June GG meeting.
4. Rearrange the species name to get this one "I am B. *drngsai*"
7. Colour of a popular Banksia seen at the Pomonal Native flower show.
8. I'm round and related to 16 across.
9. Common name of 4 down.
10. I used to have my own identity, but now I am part of the Banksia genus.
11. Name of May Gibbs home in NSW.
14. Summer Hazard.

Banksia Word Search

A	R	S	D	O	P	M	A	W	S	I
N	C	E	T	E	L	R	A	C	S	R
I	E	O	V	J	S	D	O	S	E	P
P	H	M	R	L	B	E	M	A	W	N
R	A	T	A	N	I	G	R	A	M	T
I	T	N	A	I	G	S	S	T	N	S
A	T	S	E	N	S	D	R	I	B	A
H	T	A	E	H	K	K	S	B	O	O
S	M	A	H	G	N	I	N	N	U	C
T	A	N	S	E	L	D	N	A	C	Y
B	A	S	T	T	E	D	R	U	B	Y

Acorn
Coast
Hairpin
Saw

Banksia Men
Cunningham's
Heath
Scarlet

Bird's Nest
Desert
Marginata
Silver

Burdett's
Giant Candles
Old Man
Swamp

The remaining letters will show by whom and where the first specimens were gathered.

Note: two word answers may be separated.

The newsletter will only continue if it has material to include. If you value the newsletter and enjoy reading it please consider making a contribution. Contributions in any form, physical or digital are welcome. Items submitted on paper, for example photos, will be scanned and returned. subject matter need not be limited to native plants, but can also include anything you think members may find interesting.
 Email: <mailto:grampiansnewsletter@apsvic.org.au> or by phone: 0438 566 250 or by post to: Phil Williams P.O. Pomonal 3381
 Thanks to everyone for their contributions to this issue.
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/APS-Grampians-Group-960723023989990/>

APSVic Grampians Committee 2019-20

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