

NEXT MEETING

We keep planning meetings and activities in the forlorn hope that one day they will be possible.

7:30 Tuesday 16th November

Stawell Neighbourhood House

Paul Kennedy: Hakeas

followed by Wednesday 17th November

Marriotts, Panrock Ridge

Hakea Garden and morning tea

More details to follow

Covid Escape

Who would have believed when we cancelled the flower show last year that we would have to go through it all again this year? We all cheered when 2020 was over, knowing that things would be better in 2021!

My escape, for which I am grateful every day, is my garden. As the case numbers rise, so do the flower spikes on my Xanthorrhoeas!

A bit of energetic pruning is the perfect antidote to doomscrolling!

Here are some of the things that are delighting me this Spring.

Phil Williams



Xanthorrhoea glauca. This species does not need fire to flower.



Astus subroseus. This dwarf shrub from WA has provided a welcome splash of colour since July



Doryanthes excelsa. has not flowered for many years

Member Profile. Graham & Adrienne Pearce

1) When did you first join APS Grampians group?

2015. We had just moved from Limestone/Sand soils just over the SA border to the heavy clay soils/ Shale of Armstrong!

2) What is your favourite species and why?

More so Banksia Genus as a whole rather than particular species. *Banksia menziesii* is one we have had recent success with.

3) Do you have a favourite time of year for your garden?

Spring

4) Do you have an absolute favourite plant in your garden? If so, please tell us more

Sandpaper Wattle. Shape and deep yellow colour of flower. Unique texture and shape of leaves and their intense colour



Banksia menziesii

5) Do you have a plant that is a continual challenge and why?

Eucalyptus woodwardii is a plant we would really like to grow but all attempts to grow it since we moved to the area have failed. We have had issues with Skeletoniser pests in many of our larger leaved, slower growing Eucalypts.



Sandpaper Wattle *Acacia denticulosa*

6) What advice would you give a member starting a new garden?

Do your research but be prepared to take some risks and experiment. We are growing plants for which all the advice said our conditions were unsuitable, with pleasing results. E.g., most say free well drained soils but we deep rip which seemed to have paid dividends. Admittedly we have only been going 5 yrs so time will tell. We have recently lost a couple of well established hakeas for no obvious reason. The main thing is to consider is ongoing maintenance like pest & weed control, pruning and potential size and potential invasiveness of some plants

7) Would you like to recall one of your favourite APS GG experiences?

The end of year get-togethers rank highly among our favourite experiences. They're a function that a large percentage of members attend, an opportunity to get to know everyone and a chance to see what the hosts have achieved in their gardens.

8) Why do you continue to be a member of the APS GG?

Enjoy interacting with friendly, like-minded people. Great guest speakers, specialists in their field, not just on plants but associated insects, animals and environmental issues. Look forward to helping out with displays and Flower Show where we can.

Ask the Expert

The Question

As APS GG are asking for articles for the Newsletters I was wondering if you would explain why some Rhodanthe have yellow centres while others have a black centre.

We bought a punnet of seedlings in May and this is what is flowering now. Are they a slightly different variety, or are they male & female plants. ????

Kevin & Sandy Moulynox



The Answer

Hi Kevin and Sandy

Thanks for your question. This is a beauty, and we think they are different colours of the same species, due to their pollination or lack thereof. Many plants in WA do this to let their pollinators know not to waste their time on the already pollinated flowers!

They have evolved to do this as it is such a vast state with so many competing flowers and a shortage of pollinators! However I may be totally off the mark!!

Thanks for putting this in the newsletter as it is such a wonderful topic!

Cheers

Neil Marriott

Hakeas Flowering in Winter in our Garden Part2

Neil Marriott



Hakea petiolaris ssp angusta

Hakea petiolaris ssp angusta is a fairly rare plant in the wild, and uncommon in cultivation. It is readily separated from the other two subspecies by its long, narrow-pointed elliptical leaves. It is confined to a few isolated granite outcrops in WA but is an extremely hardy large shrub with massed cream and pink winter flowers in the garden.



***Hakea propinqua* –Blue Mts, NSW**

Hakea propinqua is a lovely rich green conifer-looking small to medium shrub confined to the Sydney sandstone region of NSW. The seed for my plants was collected in the Blue Mountains, so loves a good soak during hot dry spells in the summer. In winter it is a mass of sweetly perfumed small white flowers for several months of the year.



Hakea pycnoneura

Hakea pycnoneura is a large 2-3m shrub from north of Perth in WA, with masses of unusual pink and cream flowers through the winter months. It is very similar to Hakea scoparia but can be separated from that species by its flattened and deeply grooved long leaves, cf terete in H



Hakea orthorrhyncha ssp filiformis

Hakea orthorrhyncha ssp filiformis is well known in cultivation, and is an extremely showy plant in the garden. It is another Hakea that flowers on its old wood, filling the bush with masses of fiery red flowers from autumn, right through winter. The flowers glow so bright that Wendy calls this our 'Fire Bush'. It attracts lots of honeyeaters to the garden throughout winter. It makes a rounded shrub 2-3m, although the less common ssp *orthorrhyncha* is a smaller, but similar shrub with flattened leaves and only growing 1-2m.



Hakea scoparia ssp scoparia

One of the showiest winter flowered Hakeas, this bushy shrub to 2m has a mass of lovely cream flowers which turn a lovely pink once pollinated. *Hakea scoparia ssp trycherica* differs in its less grooved leaves and showier flowers which are first cream, then pink, ageing to red. This subspecies is very rare, being only found on the slopes of Mt Ragged, on the western edge of the Great Australian Bight. Wendy and I collected seed for our plants from this area in 2003, and the resultant plants are spectacular through the winter months.

One of my very favourite Hakeas, the Royal Hakea *Hakea victoria*, which is a small columnar shrub to 1m in the wild, but bushier to around 2m in the garden. It is one of the very few naturally variegated plants in the world, and is truly spectacular when it develops a range of yellow, orange and ultimately red and green to blue-green large scalloped leaves. The cream, ageing pale pink flowers at the base of each leaf are a bonus, though they often go unnoticed. Often they are discovered only when honeyeaters are observed visiting the plants to gather the good nectar supplies from the flowers.



Hakea scoparia ssp trycherica



Hakea victoria

If you only have room in your gardens for small plants, then you must have *Hakea myrtoides* –one of our most beautiful small winter flowering shrubs growing usually less than 0.4m tall and 0.6-1.0m wide. It is an uncommon small plant in garden. Sadly it rarely sets any seed and is therefore seldom seen in the nursery trade. This is growing in heathy woodland in the northern Darling Range in WA. It grows in well drained sandy loam soils and has proven to be quite hardy in the city, but fortunately it strikes fairly well from cuttings and these plants are occasionally available at specialist native nurseries.



Hakea myrtoides showing its beautiful dwarf habit

Spring in the Ironbarks

Kevin and Sandy have been walking in the Ironbarks and sent pictures of what they found



Hypoxis ?



Glossodia major, Waxlip



Hibbertia sp.



Micromyrtus ciliata



Baeckea ramossissima

Introducing...

Hi fellow gardeners!

A little info about us....we are Julie and Phil Deckert, and we live in Corella Court.

We are originally from Horsham. Prior to us retiring at the end of 2017, we owned a motel in Ouyen, in the Mallee. When we retired, we moved to Pomonal, and lived in our caravan for 18 months while our house was being planned and then built.

After that, it was time to clean up the site, and establish a garden, a project which we enjoy so much. We've had fences erected, a circular road out the front made, and have laid out garden beds out the front and several in the back yard, which is inside a fence that encloses the whole back yard. We have planted fruit trees and have potato boxes ready for vegies. We missed the ideal time to plant the native plants on my list, last Autumn, because Phil had to have a knee replacement done at the start of Autumn. This meant quite a long recovery time, and before we knew it, Winter was upon us. And what a wet Winter we have had! I'm a bit hesitant to plant now, fearing that our coming long hot Summer might be too harsh for young plants, so we will probably wait until next Autumn.

In the meantime we have had our back verandah extended so I have potted up quite a few pot plants to edge this area. We also had a fernery built, and when we finally have a few fine days in a row, want to build a pond inside this, together with a seating area. SO many projects! On the odd fine day that we have had, we have been spraying weeds, a seemingly never ending job! We are enjoying every little improvement that we have made, but are SO looking forward to planting as many beautiful native plants as we can!

Images of *Thryptomene calycina*

Grampians *Thryptomene* harvest season for the cut flower industry. by Fiona Lucas



Below the rugged sandstone escarpments of the Eastern Grampians, we have a *Thryptomene calycina* plantation. A bonus to the property we purchased in the foothills of the Grampians near Moyston in 2018.

Apparently, it was planted over 20 years ago. It has self-seeded post the 2007 fires and been left to its own. 2020 was the first year in many that it was commercially harvested. This has continued this year....



Is it ready yet? – Yes!

This year it was late July & August



Note the change in colour from yellow to pink due to pollination



A bundle of thryptomene for the wholesale / export market.



It can be transported damp vs in water as it copes well with a deep soaking.



Thryptomene is known in the trade as a 'filler'.



But when it's bunched on its own it shines and keeps on giving. Just turn it upside down and you have a dried bunch for months.

A florist's bunch is approximately, 60cm in length & weighs 400 grams

Pomonal Roadside Reserves



Nodding Greenhood
Pterostylis nutans



Golden Heath
Styphelia adscendens



Common Correa
Correa reflexa



Purple Coral-pea
Hardenbergia violacea



Leafless Bitter-pea
Daviesia brevifolia



Golden Wattle
Acacia pycnantha

Robins Road Reserve is in flower! Already there are orchids, heaths, peas, hardenbergia, correa, wattle and masses of buds on other species, getting ready to flower. And in Millers Creek Reserve the first little greenhoods are in flower along with the gnat orchids. Soon there will be donkeys, spiders, bearded orchids .. and more. Jallukar Landcare has recently formed a subcommittee of people interested in contributing to the future of these and other valuable roadside reserves in Pomonal. If you are interested in more information contact Anthea 0429170450 or pomonalnewsletter@gmail.com

And more flowers are out!

Update

Since Anthea wrote this, an initial meeting has been held to work out a way forward for such a committee. It's first action is to invite anyone interested to join a walk along the section of Robins Road in question so that we can choose the area we wish to concentrate on and work out a management plan which we can put to Council.

Meet at 10.00 Tuesday 21st September at Robins Road car park.



Tetratheca ciliata, Pink Bells
Leucopogon virgatus, Beard Heath

Please Help Our Gardens

Neil Marriott

APS Grampians Group has for a long time helped develop and maintain showy native gardens around the district for enjoyment of the community. With consent of the Ararat City we established a lovely native section to Alexander Gardens in Ararat, donating plants and our time, but sadly our working bees were the only maintenance, and that combined with an unsuitable site with southerly aspect led to our decision to drop this garden from our volunteering.

We were also approached to design and plant the entrance to Stawell Hospital, and for many years this was highly successful, with all ongoing maintenance being carried out by the hospital gardens staff. Sadly, hospital management changed and this ongoing maintenance was dropped. The gardens are beautiful, amazing right now, but spoilt by weeds and unpruned plants.

Back in Pomonal we have had a long association with the small public garden in front of the general store. This we named Jane's Garden, in honour of one of our wonderful founding members Jane Williams, wife of our much loved editor, Phil. This has been a mixture of spectacular displays of our Grampians plants, followed by mass incursions of exotic weeds. Despite the ongoing problems of weeds we still care for and add to this lovely strip garden every year, lately with some help from Ararat Shire workers.

Finally we have the young gardens around the Pomonal Hall. Landscaped and planted by our members with financial support from the Pomonal Hall Committee and with help from the Pomonal community. We continue to improve and maintain this garden and it has just undergone further planting of a number of beautiful feature plants. However with the lovely wet winter we have just had, there are of course lots of weeds that are detracting from the beauty of the gardens. Fortunately our President John and Phill Bennett have just done a wonderful job spraying out the weeds at the hall, so that should keep them under control for a short time.

I am calling on all members, whenever you can drop in please and spend a few minutes weeding, at either the general store or the Pomonal hall. What's needed is to weed close to, under and around each plant, as John and Phill will drop down and spray paths, edges and the weeds away from plants. Even if you only have a few minutes, please drop in and do a bit of weeding around a few of the plants. Grab a coffee in the store while there, or re-charge your electric car while at the hall. Bit by bit we will get on top of the weeds, and by all doing our little bit we can keep these gardens looking wonderful for all. Our community gardens are something we should all be very proud of – let's keep them a real showpiece for the district and for passing tourists alike.

Please do your bit to help!



***Grevillea gariwerdensis* in Jane's Garden
Pomonal general store**

HALLS GAP BOTANIC GARDEN UPDATE

I am pleased that some of you were able to visit our garden back in June. I was in Canberra after camping trip to western Queensland with my daughter, and I'm grateful to Margot Galletly for hosting you.

So what follows those of you who were able to come already know, so I hope you don't mind hearing it again.

As most of you know, we were mainly successful in our grant application to DELWP and we have started spending it. The portable toilet has been installed. (Apologies that Margot didn't have the key. Next time). The new shed will very soon be built next to the shade shelter, on the side near the existing shed. The rainwater from its roof will go into the existing tank and from there down to the wetland garden bed.

The most expensive item, the watering system renewal, will be done by Russel Waring in a couple of months. We may need to close part of the garden then. The exact date has not yet been fixed. The winter has been too wet.

We also received funding for signage about indigenous use of plants. We have written to the relevant first nation groups suggesting that we prepare the signage wording, which they were happy with. We then submitted our draft to them for approval and improvements. No answer yet so we will remind them soon. We have received permission from Professor Ian Clarke to use his map of the tribes' areas prior to colonisation.

We plan to use the shelter near the bridge and the gate to Venus Baths for this. We will move the description of the garden by Ken Woodcock to the other side. We have already removed most of the information and photos on that side up to the shade shelter, thus freeing up the front for the indigenous plant use descriptions and map of where the signs beside the plants are. The Peaks Trail (GPT) walkers will come past it. We may need to spend some extra money on this.



APS members enjoying the garden in June

The Peaks Trail coming through the garden is now finished. It comes down from Chatauqua Peak to the oval, crosses the road and then comes into the garden from behind the school. Then through the garden towards the back, and goes out over the footbridge, then turns to the shops. The workers also did some repairs to where their machinery had damaged other paths. We have a facebook page which one of our volunteers puts photos up on and gets lots of appreciative comments, and we do have a rather neglected website.

The garden itself: Our plants are looking very good, lots in flower. We have done some planting since the APS visit – grasstrees, more thryptomene, bauera. But there is a huge amount of work needing to be done. The weeds have loved the damp winter and the lockdowns have meant much less work being done by our volunteers. Maybe we should pay someone to help? We get so many compliments, but new volunteers are hard to recruit. Our working bees are on the 2nd and 4th Fridays (when permitted), but some volunteers just come when they can. We would welcome any of you APS folk to join us.

Margo Sietsma 0429201139



BIRD SWING BIRDING & WILDLIFE TOURS

Birdwatching, Wildflower & Nature Tours throughout Australia

Western Australia Spectacular Wildflower Tour



Join **Neil Marriott**, one of Australia's leading botanists & co-author of The Grevillea Books along with **Neil Macumber**, well known bird/wildlife guide & plant enthusiast to explore wonderful Western Australia.



Mountains, Coasts and Southern Heathlands Wildflower Tour (WA3) South of Perth - 10 Days 20th to 29th October 2022

Highlights: Dryandra, Stirling Ranges, Fitzgerald River NP, Cape Le Grande NP, Point Anne-whale spotting

Includes: Fully accommodated, all meals and entrance fees, travelling in our luxury air/cond. coach



Brochure & Tour Cost Please Contact: Neil Macumber Ph: 0413 628 306
Email: birdswing@bigpond.com www.birdingwildlifetours.com.au

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@psvic.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/>

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