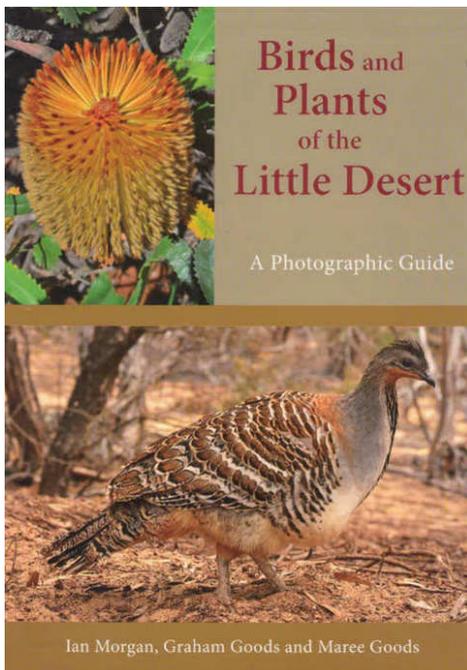


## NEXT MEETING

7:30pm Tuesday 15th March  
Stawell Neighbourhood House  
Graham and Maree Goods  
“Wildflowers of the Little Desert”



## Next Meeting

Graham and Maree are old friends of APS Grampians and it's always a pleasure to welcome them back.

They each have nearly fifty years' experience exploring the Little Desert and have covered nearly every square inch of it to photograph and record all species for this beautiful book.

This talk will reveal the common and not so common flowers and will whet our appetites for the September excursion to the remote Western Block of the Little Desert in September, which they have kindly offered to lead.

Please note the meeting venue: **Stawell Neighbourhood House, 42 Sloane Street, Stawell.**



## Members' Corner

APS members Catherine Pye and Clive Carlisle are shown here transplanting wattle seedlings into tubes for planting at the end of winter. They have already grown and planted out hundreds of plants to revegetate their property at Fyans Creek.

All APS members have an open invitation to use the facilities of my nursery if they wish to have a go at producing their own plants.

Phil Williams

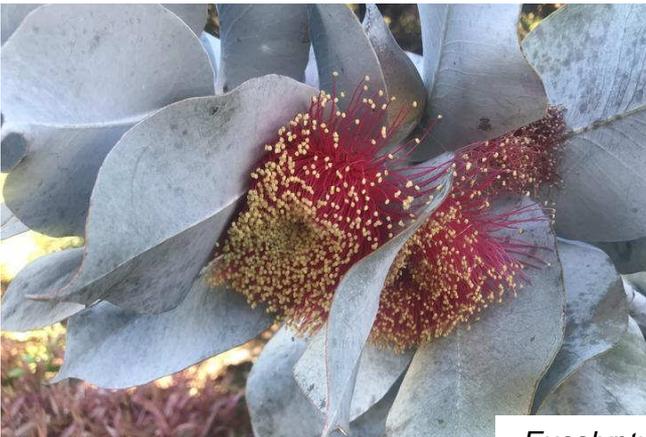
## My Favourite Plants

Two of my favourite plants which we have at Grannes are *Eucalyptus tetraptera* and *Eucalyptus macrocarpa*. I remember as children our father would always stop near the Deep Lead school along the Highway where a macrocarpa grew. We would marvel at the way the flowers formed, bursting out from their exquisite cups to show us the brilliance of nature, the gold tips of the bright red flowers often obscured within the tufts of those dramatic leaves. These eucalypts are sculptural, making a statement wherever they grow.

When we first started to plant up the paddock where our house was to be located, Dad insisted we include a tetraptera. Its ungainly appearance straddles the surrounding bush garden now and, like the macrocarpa, its foliage and flowers are uniquely formed. The enormous leathery leaves ensure it will tolerate the drier summers; taking in the rain when it does fall. Both grow in the wild in SW Western Australia often overshadowing the scrubby wonderland of flora around it.

Today, at Grannes, the gum-nuts and leaves are always collected for the nature play days at WAMA so that children can create their own piece of artistry using these tools of nature.

Glenda



*Eucalyptus macrocarpa*



*Eucalyptus tetraptera*

## February Meeting Report by John King

We had an excellent attendance of about 40 members at our February meeting. One attraction was a shared meal from 6pm on the sunlit terrace of the hall on a warm summer's evening. The group grants guest speakers a meal allowance, and extends this to any members that put them up for the night. Kevin & Sandy Moulynox thought the money would be well spent on a communal meal for members and it turned out a great success. Kevin & Sandy were commended for their generous community spirit.

The second attraction was the presentation - an inspiring glimpse into what can be achieved in our region by a couple of keen gardeners. Royce & Jeanne Raleigh are well known to many of us and have presented before for our group, the last time being on Grampians Peas in Sep 2019. At our February meeting they told their story of transforming a bare paddock into a very fine native garden that attracts visitors from near and far. Neil Marriott introduced Royce & Jeanne, having known them since childhood, and Neil was delighted to hear that his father helped the Raleighs purchase their block of land at Wartook in 1973, when it was just a bare paddock of 110 acres.



In the immediate ensuing years they self-built their steel-framed house, dug a large dam to help with their water supply and, starting with 600 plants brought up from Melbourne, planted along the drive and in a centre bed.

After the 1980 floods, they dug drains, raised the garden beds to help with drainage and shored up the beds with logs.

Drought followed on the heels of the floods and, with little water over a two-year period, they lost over 2,000 plants, many well-established. This motivated the digging of an 18ft dam in 1983. They extended the garden to 5 acres and started mulching with pine bark. They planted over 2,000 trees along their boundary and started fencing-out the kangaroos.



From the 2000s they started using organic mulch for the paths and mulched the beds with scoria. To date Royce estimates in excess of 1,100 tonnes of scoria have been trucked in. Rain penetrates the scoria, it suppresses weeds and inhibits fire.

Fire struck in January 2014 and Royce spoke highly of Blaze Aid's assistance in re-fencing.



Recent beds have been prepared by ripping, rotary hoeing, then adding trailer loads of compost, together with blood and bone & dynamic lifter, then drains and paths dug and logs added around each bed, which are finally planted and mulched with scoria 75mm deep.



Now compare the first photo of the bare farm paddock to what it is today: a testament to hard work, resilience in the face of setbacks and a passion for our native plants.



## Member profile: Lisa Ashdowne

### 1) When did you first join the APS Grampians group?

I joined after attending the gathering at Barneys with the Handscombes who took a workshop on anigozanthos - Kangaroo paw. I met a lovely woman, Fiona Lucas. She was very encouraging about joining the group. How could I resist?

### 2) What is your favourite species and why?

I've never been one to favour just one anything. I am quickly enamoured by the beauty, design, and other characteristics of the plant that takes my fancy at the moment: *Telopea* today, *Grevillea* tomorrow. Truth be known, I am still so early in my "plant knowledge journey" that I probably don't know and haven't even seen my favourite species. But I'm excited about the journey.

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

Yes, the time when there are no weeds to remove. It hasn't happened yet. But seriously, I'm not one for a favourite anything because there are so many reasons to love the garden - new growth, seasonal flowers, the green when the rain is around.

### 4) Do you have an absolute favourite plant in your garden?

I'd have to say *Xanthorrhoea glauca* because they have such an ancient presence, and because we are very lucky to have several on our land. They are incredibly impressive when the sky is grey and their flower stems reach into the sky. This was last year's magnificent display.



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

I don't think I've been involved in gardening and native plants to have an ongoing problem. But I have lost a few - I'm sure that's been unintended negligence through planting more than I could manage.

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

Do it. Ask others what they do but trust yourself. What works for someone else isn't always what will work in your garden. Google is loaded with information. Look there, too. And, if you can, study Horticulture. It helped Darryl and me to get started and have a good degree of success. We didn't learn everything there is to know by a long shot. We learned a lot about how to look at things and how to get information.

7) Do you have a favourite plant that is endemic to the Grampians?

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

Well, it's the people. We are new to the area and have been welcomed so warmly. We have thoroughly enjoyed all the events and activities.

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

To be part of a group of passionate plant people that collectively know so much about plants and share in such a fun and friendly way.

**10) Do you have any ideas or suggestions that would enhance the membership experience?**

Encourage the young people around you to experience the love and joy of plants. I wish I'd realised much sooner in life how much I love time in the garden, and the importance of plants.

## Propagation Session



Clockwise: Glenda, Wayne, Margot, Anthea, John, Lloyd, Phill.



The cuttings produced

On 23rd February APS Grampians held a propagation workshop where members got practice at preparing cuttings. Over the years these sessions have been held periodically as members have requested them.

The cuttings we produced are now in a propagation unit which provides them with misting and bottom heat. Hopefully after a few weeks we can hold a follow up workshop when the rooted cutting can be potted up.

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/>