

# Australian Plants Society

Grampians Group Newsletter

# Gari-Word

June 2022

## NEXT MEETING

### Sat 25th June Pomonal Hall

**12pm:** A bit of weeding around the hall before they get out of hand, and a chat over some lunch before our June members' meeting.

**2pm:** Winter afternoon meeting at the Pomonal Hall. Neil Macumber has recently published a pocket guide to the commoner bird species of Gariwerd, and will speak to this. Bring your questions and bird calls for id. Have you anything flowering in your garden? ... bring it along for the flower table.

## Invitation to WAMA Grassland Day

Grampians Australian Plants Society, WAMA and Jallukar Landcare Group have organised a Native Grasslands day at Pomonal on **Saturday July 2nd**. We hope you can come and share this day with us. Morning tea will be provided and please BYO lunch.

WAMA has established a 2 hectare native grassland garden that was direct seeded by grassland expert David Franklin, Woorndoo Landcare Group. This was funded by a grant to Jallukar Landcare Group for grassland restoration and seed collection.

On July 2nd we are fortunate to have the renowned Grassland Ecologist John Delpratt (see bio below) from Melbourne University as well as David Franklin coming to share their expertise with us.

We will also be visiting our community nursery, generously shared with us by Phil Williams at his former Wildflower Nursery, Wildflower Drive Pomonal.

Come along and share in this exciting day of learning for the whole community.

### PROGRAM

10AM Tour of WAMA native grassland site with John Delpratt and David Franklin. Approx. 45 mins -1 hr. Corner Pomonal-Halls Gap Rd and Neal Rd.

11AM morning tea round the campfire at WAMA - tea and coffee provided

11.30 AM visit the nursery in Wildflower Drive Pomonal to inspect grassland plant and seed production

12 midday Lunch at Pomonal Hall

1PM presentation by John Delpratt on native grasslands, their importance, conservation, how to re-create from scratch, how to restore from degraded remnants, weed control and most importantly, how we can massively increase the species richness and diversity of the WAMA grassland.

Followed by Q & A from audience.

Looking forward to seeing you  
Neil Marriott Flora Team Leader, WAMA

## John Delpratt

John is an Honorary Fellow with the University of Melbourne. He was a lecturer in plant production and seed technology at the University's Burnley campus for 25 years prior to his retirement. His involvement with native grassland conservation focussed initially on cultivation and seed production systems for grassland forbs and later on the reconstruction and management of diverse native grassland communities for both ecological and horticultural applications.

In retirement, he works with the Woorndoo Chatsworth Landcare Group, restoring grassland communities in that district. He also works with colleagues at the University installing and managing native grassy communities in urban areas.

While his primary focus is on restoring and conserving native plant communities, he also enjoys growing and studying a range of tuberous species that are difficult to establish in large numbers by direct sowing.

## Cup Moth Infestation at Armstrong



Back in February we became alarmed that many of our young natives (predominantly Eucalypts, 1-1.5 m high) appeared almost defoliated. Closer examination revealed large numbers of (otherwise attractive) Cup moth larvae. When they are smaller, the larval damage appears as skeletonization, but as they grow, they scallop and eventually devour the whole leaf.

We feared losing trees or severe retardation at the very least, even though research suggested that Cup Moth only caused issues periodically and no control was necessary (indeed not even mentioned).

The local Nursery suggested Carbaryl spray, which didn't sit well with us, especially since it was not registered for use near food crops or pastures.

Being members of the *Lepidoptera* family, we thought of trying "Dipel" to control them, which we keep on hand in the event of a Vine Moth or Apple Moth outbreak in our vineyard. "Dipel", as many of you would know is a culture of the naturally occurring *Bacillus thuringiensis*, a bacteria toxic to moths and some other invertebrate pests, and is organically certified. To our delight, the larvae started to turn black and lifeless after 3-5 days.

The photo, left, shows an unhealthy, self-seeded Red Gum sapling, typical of most around here at that time of the year, and assume that cup moth are the culprits.\*

Graham and Adrienne Pearce

\* *Red Gum damage could be lerp infestation, which is very common in this area*

*Phil*



## APSGG May Meeting Report by John King

Ian Evans on *Brachychitons*: *The Kurrajong, Flame Tree and Bottle Tree families*

The May meeting was held at the Stawell Neighbourhood House, favoured by those living in the vicinity, and those closer to Pomonal and with hearing difficulties, because of its better acoustics (note that this has been relayed to the Pomonal hall committee).

Ian Evans, landscaper and native plant enthusiast and collector, travelled from Bendigo to tell his audience everything they needed to know about Bottle Trees.



*Brachychiton compactus* in Ian's superbly-landscaped Bendigo garden

He brought plant samples to help illustrate his talk, as well as plants to sell.

So to *Brachychitons*.



The foliage: some species retain juvenile foliage for many years, others have large leaves and most drop their foliage, becoming deciduous before flowering

*Brachychiton gregorii*, the Desert Kurrajong



The bark & trunk: some species are grown for the "bottle" shape of their trunks, others have interesting texture and patterns to their bark, while some species form dense shade trees providing a cool spot in the harsh summer sun.

*Brachychiton rupestris*



The flowers: *Brachychiton* species often present a mass floral display, mostly while in their deciduous stage. *Brachychitons* mostly occur naturally in the tropics, they drop their leaves during the later part of the dry season and flower at the onset of the wet season.

*Brachychiton albidus*



Open seed follicles



Brachychiton 'Prenzlau Pink'  
B. discolor x bidwillii hybrid



*Brachychiton Sp. Ormeau*

One of Australia's rarest trees, with approximately 160 trees over a 6km<sup>2</sup> area. Only a small number of which are mature trees that set viable seed. Fruiting of the trees is sporadic with seed-set only occurring twice over an 18 year period.

Pests: Most insect pests only seem to cause damage to Brachychitons in a nursery or growing area where a number of Brachychitons of the same species or related species are being grown together.

Thanks to Ian for an excellent, informative and well-illustrated talk from a knowledgeable presenter .. what more could we ask. Thanks also to Ian for his permission to reproduce here some of his presentation.

Erecting the APS marquee for Tom Banfield's memorial service and Aileen Banfield's 90th birthday at Grampians Paradise and floral decorations prepared by Fiona Lucas



## Member profile. Wayne Farey

No need for introductions as Wayne has been an active member since 1999. However, there maybe some surprises about his journey developing his Australian plant garden.

We discussed his favourite Proteaceae family genus and he landed on *Grevillea*. Wayne says “Because of the broad number of species there always seems to be one in flower. They offer both attractive flowers and foliage and of course are a great attraction for the smaller birds”. *Grevillea excelsior* is his favourite. (pictured). I noticed many other species doing well too.

However not everything in the Proteaceae family thrives as the *Banksia* was noted by Wayne as “my biggest challenge”. The Myrtaceae family appears to thrive and features in Wayne’s Garden. Particularly the *Eucalypt* genera. Amongst a broad variety of species he has a gorgeous avenue of *Corymbia citriodora* and many, many, *Eucalyptus caesia*.



Winter and spring is Wayne’s favourite time of the year. I have no doubt these seasons would bring a lot of joy and interest as Wayne has built many water courses and ponds all lined with river stones. These and the meticulously maintained garden beds and paths purposely meander through the garden. This is all complemented by the wonderful variety of art installations and water features that he has crafted.

Wayne speaks fondly of a group excursion to SA. He says these are very valuable experiences and suggests that even on a smaller scale the onsite visits to gardens are invaluable learning tools. As a newer member of our group, I was keen to ask Wayne what advice he would give new members. “Buy a good long handled shovel and start digging”.

Fiona Lucas



## Arnhem Land Flora

Glenda has been to Arnhem Land recently and seen and photographed these plants (and many others) and would like help with identifying them. Can anyone help? Please send your suggestions by email to <mailto:grampiansnewsletter@apsvic.org.au>

8196



9086



8566



0634



8578



8866



### *Grevillea dimorpha* var *angustifolia* Yellow Form



We are all familiar with *Grevillea dimorpha*, as it is the floral emblem of our group. And we all know that it has red flowers, so this newly discovered yellow form is a delightful surprise. It was discovered by a team from Cranbourne Botanic Garden in the Southern Grampians. They have kindly donated a specimen for the WAMA Grampians Endemic Garden and we have successfully propagated a number of new plants from it. These will be included in the first plantings in the new garden in July.

Many APS members have been involved in the propagation of many hundreds of plants for this garden, so it is very exciting that it has finally arrived at the planting stage.

Phil

## Another (accidental) Banksia Success Story

This is *Banksia gardnerii* var *hiemalis* meaning 'winter flowering'. It is a completely prostrate plant and the flowers look like they come straight out of the ground. This specimen is over 30 years old and has spread to about 3 metres across.

We collected our seeds during our trip to WA in 1987 somewhere in the Badgingarra area north of Perth.

Phil



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 2021-2022

#### Office Bearers

President: John King  
Vice President: Neil Marriott  
Secretary: Lisa Ashdowne  
Treasurer: Catherine Pye

#### Ordinary Members

Ross Simpson  
Fiona Lucas  
Wendy Marriott  
Neil Macumber  
Margot Galletly