



NEXT MEETING
2:00 pm SATURDAY 23 JULY Pomonal Hall
Endemic plants of the Grampians/Gariwerd
Neil Marriott

Next Meeting

This is the second of our Saturday afternoon winter meetings. Neil Marriott will be speaking on Endemic Plants of the Grampians. We are used to speakers extolling the wonders of Western Australia's flora, so it will be good to learn about some of the floral delights of our own back yard.

Neil deserves special thanks because, before he speaks to us, he will have spent all morning delivering and arranging hundreds of plants at the WAMA site ready for the big plantout on Sunday! (See Anthea's article below)

Advance notice

We can confirm that Maree and Graham Goods will lead a tour in the western block of the Little Desert NP, between Wednesday the 5th and Saturday the 8th of October (the week following the flower show). The plan is that we base ourselves at Lake Charlegark Caravan Park and do day trips from there. We will pool 4WDs where we can. You do not have to decide now; this is just to help you plan ahead.

June Meeting Report

The 25th of June was a fine day and those who could helped with general weeding at Jane's Garden and the hall garden, after which we had a sausage-sizzle on the hall decking.

Neil Macumber kindly agreed to share some of his avian knowledge and anecdotes. He brought along some of his newly-published local bird-identification guides and based his talk around those. His guide features 100 of the commoner species and he mentioned where you were likely to see them. He also showed some very good shots of the less commonly-seen species, which he hopes to include in a subsequent guide.

Instead of using the projector and laptop, he plugged his USB stick into the back of the hall's large television screen. At Anthea's suggestion we arranged the seating amphitheatre-wise around the screen and speaker, which helped considerably for those who struggle with the hall's acoustics. It was a delight to have Beverley Grace in attendance.

We all enjoyed a cuppa, something to munch and a chat, followed by an excellent flower table.

John King

A Grasslands Field Day by Anthea Nichols

On 2 July the results of many months of planning, hoping and rescheduling, finally took place in the form of a Grasslands Field Day, co-hosted by Jallukar Landcare, WAMA and APS.

The day began around the fire pit at the WAMA site, where we met with John Delpratt and David Franklin, both highly experienced in grasslands restoration and both involved in the Woorndoo restorations.

Together we walked through the grassland sown at the WAMA site two seasons ago, where abundant wallaby and spear grasses are sending up their new season's growth. Then after morning tea and lots of QnA around the fire we went on to Phil Williams nursery where all of our seed propagation has been happening over the 5 years of the project.



Finally, after lunch at the hall, we were privileged to listen to a talk by John Delpratt, taking us through the principles of grassland restoration and encouraging us with wonderful photos of what a restored grassland can look like.

The Grasslands Project meets every Wednesday morning at Phil's Nursery (or wherever our next steps need us to be). It is a fun, rewarding morning and always ends with morning tea and an attempt to solve a few world problems. More members are welcome!

But that's not all:

Another exciting project that has been happening at the nursery is about to come to fruition. Over the Covid years the group has been minding plants donated by the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens for the Grampians endemic garden planned to become an important aspect of the WAMA site, adjacent to the native grassland. Our group has also propagated hundreds of plants, from the Cranbourne specimens and from material collected under license from the Grampians.

Meanwhile, over the last few months the ground has been prepared. Many of us have been noticing the earth works taking place behind the vermin-proof fence at the WAMA site.



On Sunday 24 July the plants will go in!

To be involved
contact Glenda 0409 423 827.)

A Day to Remember!

17 September is and will be a day for Pomonal to remember!

It is the 2nd Last Saturday in September and normally it would be a community garden working bee at Jane's Garden or the Hall, but for September it will be a Community Walking Day!

The walk will take in two of Pomonal's valuable roadside reserves, starting with Robins Rd and returning via Tunnel Rd. At that time of the year, both roadside reserves are wonderfully rich in wildflowers, including orchids, and there will be folk from our local Australian Plant Society and Jallukar Landcare to help us identify them.

But that's not all (despite that being enough to warrant a walk in the wildflower season!) Along the way you will encounter surprises! There will be musicians, artists, and .. surprises! There will be more information in the September Newsletter, but put the date in your diary now!

Meanwhile we have the July and August 2nd Last Saturdays (23 July and 20 August) to work on Jane's Garden at the store, so it will be wonderful for the Flower Show weekend (1&2 October). If you haven't yet become a part of the small but growing group, helping to maintain our community gardens, please consider joining us. At Jane's Garden some folks have adopted a slice, adding to the fun. Each of the sections adopted, have a name. So far we have:

'Last but not least' (the 2 ends looked after by APS)
'A Short Walk'
'Venn Diagram'
'Degonskell'
'A little Slice of Paradise'
'Kings Domain'
'Farey Garden'

Have fun guessing what group, family or individual has adopted these sections. There are still five plots that are being cared for by the whole group but it would be fun to have them adopted out (and lessen the work load of those who come. And more time to enjoy morning tea together .. provided by APS).
Anthea



Some more of Glenda's Arnhem Land Pictures

How many can you identify?

8217



8409



8580



8847



8848



9172



Here are Neil Marriott's suggestions for some of Glenda's pictures in last month's edition:

Just reading your June newsletter while relaxing in the beautiful sun and warmth of far North Queensland!

Glendas plants are:

8196 Grevillea dryandrii

9086 Cochlospermum -yellow capoc tree

8566 Calytrix extipulata

0634 Grevillea pteridifolia

Members' Pictures

Carol Brazier took her phone for a walk and found these lovely *Correas* to brighten a dull Winter day!



Fiona Lucas sent these pictures after she noticed black spots on the leaves of her *Hakea multilineata* and wondered if anyone had an explanation or suggestions as to the cause. I immediately went down the garden to look at my own *multilineata* and found it was exactly the same! I think it's a seasonal fungal infection because I've seen it before, but if anyone can shed some more light on the subject, or has seen the same infection on their own *Hakeas* then please let us know.

Phil



Ask the expert!

A Winter Walk by John King

With an eye to the skies we decide which route we should take. Windy or wet weather will influence our decision. Our black lab, Nellie, doesn't seem to care, just as long as it's a decent length. This morning the sky is a clear pale blue and there is scarcely a hint of a breeze. We head across the paddock.

Before our time, sheep had a negative impact on the native vegetation and only the very resilient survived where the teeth of stock could nibble. In the paddock there is chiefly the introduced sweet vernal grass, capeweed and sorrel, with some native wallaby and weeping grass. Beyond the paddock is heathy woodland and the further in you go, the more it conforms to its natural state. The wonderful thing about this time of year is that this is when many of our plants first come into flower and are visited, if not by



Common Heath, pink & white *Epacris impressa*



Flame Heath
Stenantha conostephoides



Golden Heath
Styphelia adscendens

Insects, by nectar-feeding birds. The Common Heath is now out, both the pink and white forms, as is the Golden Heath. The Flame Heath has produced its red capsule flowers for some time now - since early autumn - but still looks in its prime. If your eyes are looking down to the track ahead, you're alerted to the presence of Bushy Needlewood by its sweet honey fragrance. What a lovely early flowerer. We can hear a Yellow Robin piping in the near distance, and various families of White-browed Babbler make their presence known on all our local walks. It's not just what's in flower, but swollen buds indicating what is to come. The Beard-heath and Spike Wattle both promise prolific flowering just around the corner.



Bushy needlewood
Hakea decurrens



Spike Wattle in bud
Acacia oxycedrus



Common Beard-heath
Leucopogon virgatus



t White-browed Babbler
b Eastern Yellow Robin



It being still, we head off across the big open eastern paddock to check on the progress of River Red Gums we have planted. They are doing well, at over 3m tall after 5 years or so in the ground. We located each in the shade of a hardy tea tree so as to get some protection from the harsh summer sun. A graceful and beautifully-shaped mature tree near the edge of the paddock shows what the future might hold for them.

Back now along the creek. This time last year it was a rushing torrent of swirls and eddies and waterfalls, and I followed it in gumboots before crossing to the overflowing bottom dam. We average over 100mm in July; so far this year we have had just 3mm and fear the creek may not run. That would be a pity. Back to the house after an hour and a half's walk. Nellie still has some energy to spare, but we are ready for a hot cuppa.

Moving Into Town 1 by Kevin Moulinox

In December 2017 we took possession of a property in Stawell that had an old house and a very large palm tree on it. The rest of the block was that covered in plants the soil tester had trouble finding somewhere to get a soil sample for testing. The old house was eventually pushed over and the block cleared so we could start building our new home.



We sold /salvaged as much as possible from the old house as we could, the leadlight front windows and door went to the local pre owned building supplier. The kitchen cupboards, old gas heater old hot water system all sold to a local builder that does up old houses and rents them out, some water pipe and slate paving were bought by a local who was 'doing up' a house to help out his newly married grandson. I was able to salvage a lot of

outdoor timber from various pergolas and other structures around the place and repurpose them into other objects after we moved in to the new home. We also kept the two round Polly Tanks with



a view of reusing them, but those plans changed as we redeveloped the property and redesigned the garden layout, so they went on Gumtree and now have a new home in a small country town about 20km away, that money allowed us to purchase a slimline Poly

Tank and put it next to the new garage / workshop.



Once we had the power abolished then the machinery moved in and demolished the old house that was beyond repair, but also the garden, back fence leaving only one mature Maple tree, one old Olive tree, a Crepe Myrtle, and an old Rose. The very old Palm tree now resides in Camberwell near the corner of Camberwell Road and Trafalgar Road. It is thought that the palm could have been planted from date seed bought back from world war one, there many around this town of a



similar age. When the backhoe dug out a lot of soil and the tree started to wobble in the ground a large crane was attached to lift it out of the ground and place it on a waiting semitrailer, but the tree was over the lifting capacity of the crane (20 tonne) so more dirt had to be removed before it could be lifted onto the extended tray of the truck as the palm was about 18 meters long. After much wrapping of the fronds and the root ball the tree was now ready for the journey to Melbourne and its new home, it was replanted within 24 hours of being lifted out of the ground.



Between us taking possession and the clearing of the block, a fellow plant group member took a lot of cuttings, many of these plants have unusual flower colour etc. they have been shared

around friends and family.

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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