



NEXT MEETING  
7:30 pm Tuesday 16th August  
Pomonal Hall  
Bill Aitchison: Wattles

### Next Meeting

We could not have chosen a better topic for this month! A stroll around the local area reveals a blaze of yellow from countless wattles of many different types. With about a thousand species in the genus *Acacia*, ranging from ground covers to forest trees and every thing in between it is not always easy to identify individual specimens.

Can you all please bring along some wattles and we can have a spectacular yellow specimen table. Also take this opportunity to find the name of any specimens you can't identify.

### July Meeting Report

After a busy few days establishing the WAMA Grampians Endemic Botanic Garden, Neil Marriott was good enough to present to the group on a chilly winter afternoon on the topic "Grampians Endemics". This was a preview of the talk he will give at the flower show, which aligns with our theme of Grampians Indigenous Species.

Neil's presentation was as expected: well thought-out, well presented and demonstrated his detailed, extensive knowledge on the subject.

Neil first gave us some background as to why the Grampians, covering just over 0.7% of the state, contains over 30% of the state's flora, including 70-78 endemic species (i.e. species only occurring in the Grampians). This is not least because the Grampians is an isolated series of mountain ranges, with its rocky gullies, forested crags, extensive cliffs, rocky streams, fern-lined pools, lakes & swamps, wetlands, treeless plains, mountain tops and sub-alpine woodland, it has the greatest concentration of Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's) of anywhere in Victoria.

Neil then gave a glimpse of the endemic species, from the Grampians Snow Gum on Mt William, the Grampians Mint-bush, the Veined and Thyme Beard-heaths, the Grampians Mountain Grevillea, to the Grampians Mountain Correa, Grampians Grevillea and Grampians Sheoak; and of course our group emblem, the Flame Grevillea, *Grevillea dimorpha*, in all its diverse forms, including a rare yellow form.

Then there were the species that curiously occurred nowhere else but in the Grampians and in isolated locations remote from the Grampians. These included the Rock Banksia (*Banksia saxicola*), which also occurs at Wilsons Prom, the Hairy Raspwort, which also occurs across



the border in SA and Bentham's Bush-pea, also at Mt Kaye and Howe Range in East Gippsland.

Neil's presentation was well-illustrated by his excellent photographs and it will be a perfect introduction for visitors to our flower show in October.

After afternoon tea there was a special surprise, with Neil and Phil Williams being presented with Grampians Group Life Memberships for their unflagging contributions to our group, from foundation, through committee positions, working bee and meeting attendances, enthusiasm & generosity in sharing their extensive plant knowledge.

Congratulations to both of them for this acknowledgement and appreciation from our group.

## Grevillea monticola

Our original plant of this species was given to us in about 1980 by the late Glyn Sago, founding president of our group. We have never planted another one but in over 40 years have rarely been without one even though the original one died decades ago. Every time one dies, a few years later a seedling emerges. This one is only three years old. We have never had more than one at a time, so there's no danger of it becoming an invasive weed!

It occurs naturally in a very small area in WA.  
Phil



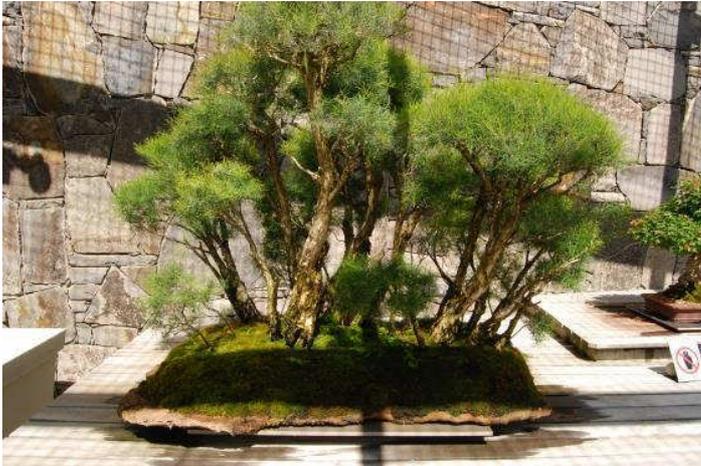
*Banksia ericifolia* "var terminalis"

### **From Phil:**

I've reported some success stories about *Banksias* in recent newsletters so to restore the natural balance here's a dead one. This is (was) a *Banksia ericifolia*. This is a normally reliable, long lived, eastern states species which suddenly died this winter. It was three metres tall, about 10 years old and seemed perfectly healthy. I've no idea why it died as I have other much older plants of the same species which are perfectly fine.

## Native Bonsai Plants Neil Marriott

We have had a request from one of our members for a talk on native bonsais. Sadly we have not been able to find a suitable speaker for our group on this topic. However, just to whet your appetite and show you just what can be done with native bonsais have a look at the photos below of some of the many wonderful native bonsai on show at the Canberra Arboretum pavilion. It houses the National Bonsai Collection and they have to be seen to be believed they are just so amazing.



*Melaleuca raphiophylla* –planted 1998. Styled since 2003 by Alf Devine, WA.



Saw Banksia *Banksia serrata* –close up of ancient trunk, grown since 1990, trained since 1995 by Neale Farrell, Tasmania.



Coast Banksia *Banksia integrifolia* planted 1989, trained since 1991 by Grant Bowie, ACT



*Callistemon viminalis* 'Captain Cook' planted 1977, trained since 2000 by Derek Oakley, WA

So next time you are in Canberra make sure you make the opportunity to visit the National Arboretum –well and truly worth a visit and there are also several wonderful native gardens as well as the National Native Bonsai Collection. Nice restaurant and coffee shop as well, and the best views out over Lake Burley Griffin to the capital.

## Members' Pictures

### **From Kevin:**

We took these about 35k north of Coonabarabran just off the Newell Hwy in the Pilliga region. We were walking along the Yaminbah Trail to an aboriginal shelter. It is a 1.7 km walk around a large sandstone cliff face with a lot of shelter spots, used by goats at the moment

It is up a lot of steps, about 200. We got around the circuit in just over the suggested time, but we did take some photos along the way.



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

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