

Australian Plants Society

Grampians Group Newsletter

Gari-Word

October 2022

NEXT MEETING

7:30 Tuesday 18th October

Stawell Neighbourhood House

A.G.M.

Giant Flower table

Next Meeting

Please note for the AGM:

- All committee positions become vacant. Please consider joining the committee and helping with administration & planning for our group.
- Nominations for the positions will be received immediately prior to the election for each position. If you are unable to attend the AGM and wish to nominate for a position, please advise by email prior to the AGM.
- You may appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf.

Once the official business of the A.G.M. is over there will be a giant flower table. We want this to be an opportunity for all members to find out the names of any plants they don't know, or to show the group their personal favourites.

September meeting presentation by John King

There was a very large turnout for Catherine & Clive's entertaining talk on walking off-track in Tassie, partly due to Catherine spreading the word to friends from other groups, an initiative that we should encourage.

Catherine began with her 'props'. These were the tools of the trade for seasoned hikers: stove, cooking gear, pack, water bladders, dehydrated food sample, clothing and so forth. Catherine gave an entertaining and animated presentation of walking in the wilds where, although there are always animal tracks, some vegetation is almost impenetrable, even so far as to make a 1km hike become a hard day's slog. Then what do you do when you run out of water? You may be lucky to stumble on a source, otherwise you may be able to squeeze a small amount from moss, or suck some up through a straw. Many in the audience looked distinctly concerned at this point, and may have put their plans for a remote walk in SW Tassie on hold. Pitching one or more tents can also be problematic and you may have to resort to squeezing into the single tent if that's all there is appropriate ground space for. Sunny days are to be exalted in and the ensuing clear views make the scratches, insect bites, leeches, dehydration, bone-weariness and drenched clothing all worthwhile ... or so they assured us!

Clive followed Catherine with a series of photos that illustrated past treks and showed how both impenetrable and extremely lovely the SW of Tassie can be. He also has a good eye for photographing vegetation and flowers, the intriguing cushion plants being a good example.

A fine talk by presenters who know what they're talking about.

John King

Flower Show Reports



I'm starting these reports with this cutting from the Stawell Times-News of 30th September 1983, reporting on our first ever show. I was at that show and have been to every one since, so I think I'm qualified to pass judgement on this year's.

I think this show was one of the best ever. I liked the more spacious layout and the variety of small enterprises and displays around the edge. It's a way of involving more members of the community as well. The weather was superb, which allowed for refreshments to be outside, freeing up more space inside. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and there was a busy happy atmosphere. Jocelyn deserves special thanks as she has organised flower shows for the last two years only to have them cancelled! But she has maintained her enthusiasm to do it again this year and it has been an absolute triumph!

Phil Williams



Foyer Display



Saturday morning. The crowds arrive.

Show Report by John King

What a beauty! Two glorious sunny and still days in a row, not seen since last Autumn(?), and especially prized given the rain since. 1026 visitors. 6 new members. Over \$6,000 in takings: admission, book sales, raffles & Fiona's flowers. Scones and tea on the deck. On every count a great success.

Set-up

Thank you to all who helped with the layout, vase cleaning, flower-picking, marquee setup, labelling & plant id, and all the other jobs that are necessary for such an event; and thank you Jocelyn for those plates of handmade sandwiches for volunteers



The Display



Our marquee speakers

The marquee has proven to be a great show asset, allowing us to host guest speakers. Sun block-out at the projector end needs to be extended for next time.



Hall-monah

The decision to combine the Halls Gap and Pomonal shows proved a real success, with most lingering at the Gariwerd indigenous table and its stunning display. Excellent job Margo and helpers, and lovely endemic display board by Jocelyn as background (photos courtesy of Neil Marriott).

New members and member visits from further afield

Six new members .. a record for our show? Our group, with 67 individual members, has the 3rd largest regional membership (after Bendigo & Mornington Peninsula).

We warmly welcome the following to our group:

- Velda and Graham Ellis from Melbourne
- Jacqui Ridler from Ledcourt
- Jo Tully from Melville Forest
- Lidwina van Dyk from Halls Gap
- Josh Galletly from Halls Gap

Also lovely to see our greatly-missed life members Linda & David Handscombe from Tower Hill. Neville Collier from Bung Bong made the trip on Friday to provide flowers and help with labelling, leaving late, then he and Helen were back the next day to view the show. Ross Simpson, always ready to lend a practical hand, came up from Dunkeld both days. Darren McClelland was up from Melbourne, and was usually to be seen helping out in various capacities, and Ruth Marriott was up from the Mornington Peninsula, both Ruth and Darren braving the potholes of the problematic Western Highway. The group is fortunate to attract such members.



Another gong for Neil!

It was pleasing to see the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria come up from Melbourne to our show to present Neil with their most prestigious award, the gold John Pascoe Fawcner Medal for his services to horticulture. Congratulations Neil!

Thank you!

Special thanks to Jocelyn who worked for months in the lead up to the show, organising everything from catering to publicity and radio interviews, from grants to signage (including our new feather flags) and coordinating the whole box and dice. We all gave her three cheers at the closing volunteer dinner and she deserved that and more.

Special thanks also to Jocelyn's able lieutenants Fiona and Andrea, who both gave so much time and experience. Fiona's bouquets were an inspired success and Andrea was first on the scene each day, and last to leave, arranging, cleaning, checking everything was right, manning the membership and raffle table and finally locking up.

Thank you to our member marquee presenters Neil Marriott and Fiona. Fiona stepped in at short notice to fill the slot allocated to Three Blooms Florist, and Neil dashed from his plant stall at 12pm each day to deliver his excellent Grampians Endemics presentation to packed houses.

Thank you to everyone who helped along the way and to those members who came on the day; they wore their membership badges with pride!



Report From Catherine Carlyle, (Group Treasurer)

We had great weather and there were lots of people everywhere. Door sales were over \$5000.

I spent some time on the plant sales table with Jacqui selling plants grown in Phil's nursery for the Jallukar Landcare Grassland project.

It was interesting to see what people were interested in buying. Most people knew what they wanted and the grass trees, bulbine lillies, trigger plants and yam daisies were very popular. As were the little cut leaf daisy and paper sunrays. Pleasingly the slaty sheoks, banksias and melaleucas also sold well.

The children's activities were amazing, Jacqui had set them up to paint flower pots and decorate these with mosaic tiles and rubber bands. Then they filled them up with potting mix and a plant and they looked great. What a great idea, I enjoyed spending the time here. The children loved it. This stall raised over \$1300.



I also spent time with Fiona selling bunches of flowers, these were lovely and very attractive mixes of different flowers including banksias, thryptomene and others and very popular. Raising over \$500.

The raffle table always seemed busy and raised \$427.

We had 6 new memberships - three who were already members of APS Victoria who wanted to join the Grampians group. Plus three new members! Well done to the raffle table.



I was interested to meet Pam Thoday again. Pam has recently moved to Wartook Rise and was doing a stall inside the hall. I first met Pam when they moved to Keppoch (near Naracoorte) and built their sustainable house, amazing garden and orchard there and it sounds as if they are now living in Wartook. Pam is a wildlife artist and we still have a painting of hers on our wall. I attach a flyer of their Sustainable Living Open Days coming up on the 22nd and 23rd of October for those interested to attend.

I also took the opportunity to charge my electric car as did at least one other vehicle. What a great place to have an electric charging station and thanks go to Pomonal Hall and the Ararat Shire for this initiative.

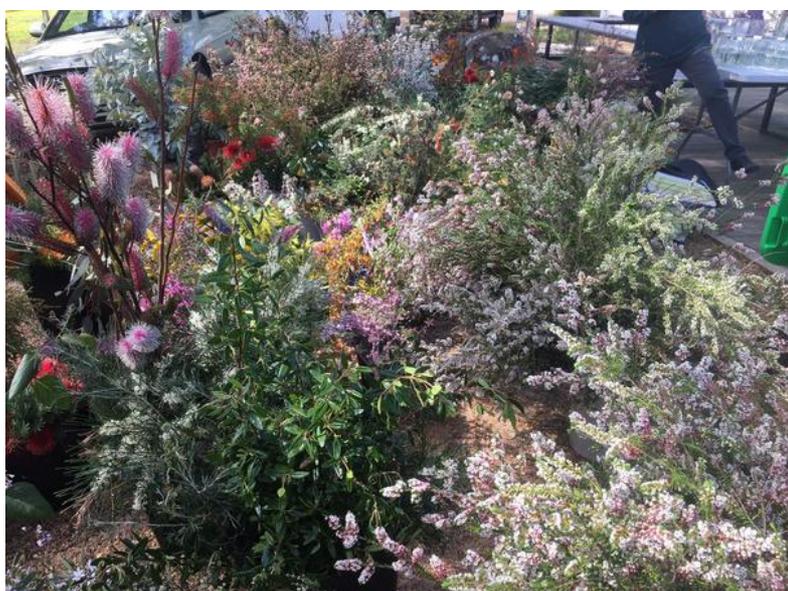
Catherine Carlyle

Some observations from **Linda Handscombe**, who was our show co ordinator for many years

What a lovely day I had at the flower show. The grounds at the hall looked wonderful and there was a very festive and inviting atmosphere. The gardens looked really good so well done to everyone who spent time weeding and tidying up. Thanks to Denis Crawford too who reminded me to walk right around the hall and have a look.

The inside of the hall looked great. I liked the busy little enterprises around the edge but thought you could have omitted a couple of them to allow for more flowers. For me, that's what it's all about. I did spot a number of big name mistakes especially in the Grevillea section so I just turned the cards around. Don't forget to spend some time after setting up the show to send some members (who know their names) around to do a final check. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves so well done. I loved catching up with you all and apologies if I missed you.

Cheers
Linda



Amazing collection of flowers from members' gardens for sorting and labelling and putting in jars for display



3D embroidery display by Lynn Stone



Margo Sietsma's display of Grampians flowers



The next generation of propagators!

Moving Into Town 2 by Kevin Moulinox

Part two of Kevin's story of setting up their new garden from scratch. When can we have a garden visit, Kevin?



Once we moved into our new home, in August 2018, we had to start to build our new garden. The first task was to get the driveway gravelled. The floor of the garage was 300 mm above the ground while at the street end the driveway needed no gravel on it. The soil yard and our bobcat operator worked together and 20m³ was delivered and spread in no time.

The next thing was deciding where new paths would go so all sections of the block would be accessible, not only to us but also meter readers and the like, so we followed mostly the old paths but took out the steps etc. to make it easy to manoeuvre the wheel barrow and any other items that are needed to maintain the garden. Also working around the existing trees etc. It was at this stage we got some mechanical help, a small backhoe arrived to help flatten out the earthworks created by the construction of the house, this little helper was able to nose up to the side fence and pick up several large stone blocks that our neighbour did not want, these were carefully placed to create rustic steps up the slope. While the digger was here it also dug a hole and re housed the fishpond.

The next decision was what material to use on the pathways, the same as the drive or something different. There is not a great selection in our town. Our Ute made several trips to the soil yard picking up a bit at a time, taking it home, spreading it, watering it, rolling it, making it easier to walk on. Having set the paths out we could start to work on what plants



Hardenbergia frame



Alyogyne huegelii



Epacris

decided upon, again as much as possible reclaimed posts were used, but we had to purchase the rails and the pickets, but our local Mitre 10 did not have enough pickets so that meant a trip of 60km to our nearest Bunnings to get the rest, but found them to be 15mm longer than those from the local supplier, it was decided to try and hide the longer pickets in the gates across the drive as the gates are always open and would not be noticed.



Pandorea 'Ruby Belle'
Inset: close up of flowers

went where, and building the structures to not only block off the view up the side of the house from the street and also become home to a couple of climbers. This and the pedestrian gate in the front were made from material rescued and repurposed from the old house.

The sandstone blocks were also saved from the old garden and used to edge the garden where appropriate. As it is now spring, it was at this stage another friend and fellow plant group member was asked to help place plants where he thought they would be best suited, but he did not like the flatness of the ground, so 10m³ of sandy top soil was purchased to sculpture the ground creating some high spots and some low spots, this again called upon the 'one barrow at a time' technique of moving soil to the supervision of the land sculptor. We planted what we had in pots from our previous property, so about 50 plants were placed where we thought they would be suitable. Now the plants are in it was easy to see where the dripper / watering system should be placed. Next came 15m³ of eucy mulch that needed to be spread one barrow full at a time.

The next thing was to build a front fence, including a Lych Gate for foot traffic. A white picket fence was decided upon, again as much as possible reclaimed posts were used, but we had to purchase the rails and the pickets, but our local Mitre 10 did not have enough pickets so that meant a trip of 60km to our nearest Bunnings to get the rest, but found them to be 15mm longer than those from the local supplier, it was decided to try and hide the longer pickets in the gates across the drive as the gates are always open and would not be noticed.



Callistemon 'Red Alert'



Thomasia grandiflora, a star of every show



Just a sample of the colours in the display



The table settings were a hit with visitors



Fiona choosing flowers for her popular bunches

Finally, thanks to everybody who heeded the call and sent in pictures and comments about the show. There were far more than I could include in the newsletter. For the first time ever I have had to hold contributions for inclusion in the next newsletter. Don't miss an authoritative article on Hakeas from Neil and details of some of Margot's adventures overseas.

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