

Australian Plants Society

Grampians Group Newsletter

Gari-Word

March 2023

NEXT MEETING

7:30pm Tuesday 21st March
Stawell Neighbourhood House
Kevin and Kathy Collins: Banksias
Supper A - K

Kevin and Kathy Collins, Banksia Farm, Mt Barker, WA

We are extremely fortunate to have Kevin and Kathy Collins from the Banksia Farm, WA coming to talk to us for our next meeting.

Kevin and Kathy hold the Official Banksia Collection of the Plant Trust, Australia. At one point they had EVERY one of the 79 Banksia species growing successfully on their farm, but sadly today, with a combination of die-back and climate change they have lost a few, but still grow the majority of species. Since the Perth Herbarium controversially lumped the genus Dryandra in with Banksia, Kevin has also grown as many of the Dryandra as he can get hold of.

A visit to their farm is an amazing experience, with attractive garden beds around the house and Banksia Gallery, moving out to drifts of plants and finally to open plantations in the lower parts of the property, and Eucalypt woodland at the top of the property. All of these areas are full of not just every Banksia and Dryandra you could ever imagine, but a host of other beautiful native plants as well.



Banksia menziesii



Banksia attenuata

The Banksia Gallery contains a lovely display of Banksia art as well as a very nice coffee shop for tour groups. Sadly the farm has now closed to the general public due to time pressures, however it can still be booked for tour groups to visit. Neil Macumber takes his WA Wildflower Tour group there each year he does the Southern Tour. He is visiting again this coming spring, so see Neil if you are interested!

Neil Marriott

A selection of Banksias to whet your appetite



Banksia sceptrum Neil Marriott



Banksia audax Neil Marriott



Banksia burdettii



Banksia rosserae Neil Marriott

WANTED –Gardener to Help the Marriotts –A Plea for Help



Wendy and I are sadly finding our garden just too hard to look after, so we are pleading for a worker or workers to come over for about 1 day per week to help us get on top of the jobs. This would entail weeding, pruning, mowing, and the like. We are happy to pay going rates for help with our now too large garden!!

If you can help, or you know someone who may be able to help us, please contact myself and Wendy on 0458 177989, or email: hello@whitegumsaustralia.com As well as working in a beautiful location, you will be able to get free plants from our nursery!

Without help we will struggle to stay on here, but we are desperate not to have to move! We look forward to hearing from you.

Neil and Wendy

Banksia elderiana

A Banksia story that's not a tragedy!

We first grew this species from seed we collected on a trip to WA in 1987. After a short life of about 6 or 7 years it sadly died and we soon forgot about it. Imagine our surprise when, a few years later a new plant appeared, several metres away from the original one. Since then we have rarely been without one. They usually live long enough to flower and produce seed, but always die after about seven years, but it's never long before another grows to take its place. At the moment, unusually, there are two alive at the same time.

It's not often seen in cultivation as it is rather an untidy, tangled shrub, as well as being short lived. Pictures: left, the elder Elderiana, (I couldn't resist that!) about 6 years old, and right the younger one, now in its second flowering season. Inset shows the unusual pendent flowers, a trait it shares with only a few other species. It is the only Banksia that has ever self seeded in my garden!

Phil Williams



Some more of Maryanne's WA pictures



APS Grampians Group Programme 2023

Please put these dates in your diary now, or pin this sheet to your notice board!

March 21st STAWELL Neighbourhood House: Kevin Collins: 'Banksias'

April 18th POMONAL Hall: Adam Merrick 'Trust for Nature in the Wimmera'

May 16th STAWELL Neighbourhood House: Ian Evans 'Landscaping a Native Garden'

June 17th (Saturday) POMONAL Hall: Neil and Neil 'Birdswing Wildflower Tours to WA'

July 15th (Saturday) POMONAL Hall Grampians Walk with Monica and Phil Coleman TBC

August 15th POMONAL Hall: Neil Macumber 'Travels Through the Great Victoria Desert'

September 19th STAWELL Neighbourhood House: Noushka Reiter 'Grampians Orchids' and Flower Show Preparation

September 30th - October 1st: POMONAL NATIVE FLOWER SHOW

October 17th POMONAL Hall: Abe Foster, Geelong APS Group 'Frogs in the Garden'

November 21st STAWELL Neighbourhood House: Royce Raleigh 'Hakeas' TBC

December 19th End of Year Breakup John and Jocelyn Kings', Long Gully Rd, Pomonal

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 Until October 2023

Office Bearers

President: John King

Vice President: Neil Marriott

Secretary: Margot Galletly

Treasurer: Wendy Marriott

Ordinary Members

Ross Simpson

Fiona Lucas

Neil Macumber

Jocelyn King

Lisa Ashdowne