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### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 15th Aug 7:30pm  
 Pomonal Hall  
 Adam Merrick - "Trust for Nature"  
 Supper to be provided by L-Z

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## Last Meeting

With Alison having tested positive for Covid, Neil Macumber was confined to barracks, leaving Neil Marriott the sole presenter of their talk on their annual guided tour to south west WA. Thankfully Neil Mac was able to drop off a sanitised USB stick containing the presentation and Neil Marriott was off and running.





First stop was King's Park, Perth, where Neil was able to give insights not available to the average visitor. For example, the bed below consists of plants still in their pots! They are nursed to their bloomin' best, before being strategically placed and disguised, with the help of rocks, as a planted bed. Once the flowers start to wane, they're moved on and others take their place.



From Perth, Neil headed south-east, passing through the Dryandra Woodland (home to Numbats), then on towards the south coast. Enroute is the botanical treasure of Cascades Road, stretching for 250 km and, on either side, a wildflower wonderland.

Then on to Fitzgerald River National Park, recognised on Australia's National Heritage List for its outstanding flora, with many species, like in the Grampians, found nowhere else.

West along the coast, but before Esperance, is a stop at Cape Le Grande National Park.







Frenchmans Peak – Cape le Grande NP - *Dryandra quercifolia*



Cape le Grande National Park

Although much of the SW has suffered from fire over the decades, the rocky cap of Frenchman’s Peak, Cape Le Grande NP, has long kept fortunate plant specimens out of the reach of flames.



*Dampiera eriocephala* – Woolly-headed Dampiera to 30cm



Douch Bush – *Daviesia pachyphylla* to 1.5Mtrs



Albany Pitcher Plant – *Cephalotus follicularis* - pitchers to 5cm

WA is also the Australian hotspot for carnivorous plants, and tragically the target of plant hunters who sell them for sometimes hundreds of dollars per specimen, making many species endangered in their natural habitat.

Of course there is the obligatory visit to Kevin & Cathy Collins’ superb banksia collection at Mt Barker.

Naturally we were treated to Neil Marriott’s expert commentary and insights to accompany numerous beautiful photographs of flowers in their natural environment and birds, insects and reptiles caught by Neil Macumber’s lens. Thank you Neils for an enjoyable hour.



# Winter-Flowering

## Winter Flowering Grevilleas

Neil Marriott

All photos Neil Marriott

As we settle in for the long cold winter bear a thought for our beautiful wildlife, particularly our little birds, that cannot hibernate or retreat to a warm fireplace! They use large amounts of energy every day just to keep themselves warm, and it may surprise you to discover that many of our native plants have evolved to provide copious nectar flows during the cooler months of winter. In fact a very large number of beautiful Grevilleas flower in their full glory at this time of the year! Our honeyeaters flock to this nectar supply and stay well fed and warm, and as Grevilleas require cross pollination to set viable seed, the result is a highly successful seed set. This is fortunate for Grevillea growers, as we can grow a spectacular display of flowering plants right through the cold of winter. Let us look at some of the best of these.

### **McCutcheon's Grevillea *Grevillea maccutcheonii***

Listed by the West Australian Herbarium as Critically Endangered, McCutcheon's Grevillea must be one of our rarest plants, with only 7 specimens left in the wild near Busselton in the SW of Western Australia. Fortunately it is becoming far more common in cultivation, being regularly grown by native enthusiasts for its beautiful stem-clasping foliage and almost continuous showy flowers. It makes an attractive shrub to around 1.5m tall and wide with massed spider flowers. These must be full of nectar as they are regularly visited by honeyeaters, resulting in a continuous supply of fertile seed. These may germinate below the parent plant and can be transplanted elsewhere in the garden or given to friends! It is best in a well-drained sunny or dappled-shade site in the garden where it is easy to grow and may be kept low and dense with regular clipping.



### ***Grevillea dryandroides* ssp *hirsuta* Hairy Phalanx Grevillea**

A most beautiful Grevillea from Western Australia listed as threatened due to most of its former habitat being wiped out in the wheat belt. *Grevillea dryandroides* is a lovely small shrub 0.2-0.4m tall and 1-1.5m wide. The beautiful foliage is grey-green and deeply divided into soft narrow lobes right to the midvein. The flowers are particularly showy, because they are born on leafless stems that often spread out along the ground around the central plant. When grown in a well-drained raised garden bed with gravel mulch, the flowers will attract lots of honeyeaters. Readily available but only at specialist native nurseries where it is mostly sold as a grafted plant.





### ***Grevillea* 'Canning Cumquat'**

This hybrid *Grevillea* came up in the garden of friends of mine here in the Grampians. It was so showy they propagated it by cuttings and by grafting, and named it *Grevillea* 'Canning Cumquat' for its intense colour, and its parent *Grevillea* 'Canning Classic', (a natural hybrid from the Canning Stock Route in outback Western Australia). *Grevillea* 'Canning Cumquat' makes a medium sized shrub to 1.5m with attractive softly divided 'fishbone' leaves and beautiful big orange toothbrush flowers for many months right throughout winter. It requires a warm, sunny site in well-drained soil for best results, and it is now becoming a popular garden plant often available at specialist native nurseries.



### ***Grevillea* 'Katydid'**

This is another chance seedling, this time from my garden. Some years ago I sowed a batch of Grape *Grevillea* *Grevillea bipinnatifida* seed. This Grape *Grevillea* had obviously been cross pollinated by honeyeaters with a nearby Leseuer *Grevillea* *Grevillea batrachioides* so I grew the hybrid on, and soon realising that it had special merit, I registered it with the Australian Cultivar Registration Authority (ACRA) in Canberra. Since then it has been propagated by cuttings and is widespread but never common in the nursery trade. The real feature of *Grevillea* 'Katydid' is that it flowers just about all year round, but more heavily even during the cold of winter. This makes it one of the best for attracting our native birds into your garden. It grows into quite a large bush around 1.5m tall and 2.5m wide, but can be pruned back very heavily if needed to be smaller.



### ***Grevillea bipinnatifida* ssp *pagna***

In my last article I wrote on *Grevillea bipinnatifida*, but this subspecies called *pagna* is a very rare but most beautiful semi prostrate form with lovely deeply divided leaves. It comes from one tiny area south of Perth, but it has fortunately proven to be very popular as a garden plant and so is often available in the nursery trade. Plants grow to around 0.2-0.4m tall and 1-1.5m wide with showy large orange and yellow toothbrush flowers throughout the cooler months of the year. It requires a well-drained sunny to dappled shady site in the garden and likes a good drink in the long dry summer months.



Red Wattlebird feeding on *Grevillea bipinnatifida* ssp *pagna*



### ***Grevillea dimorpha* Flame Grevillea**

This is one of Victoria's very own Grevilleas as the Flame Grevillea is only naturally found in the Grampians in western Victoria. Here it grows in well drained sands or gravels over clays and has proven to be a most hardy and beautiful plant for cultivation in similar situations in the garden. In the Grampians it can be either broad leaved or narrow leaved, but in the areas of central Grampians, between the two foliage extremes occur plants with intermediate leaves. This is the plant depicted in my photo below. In the garden it grows as a lovely small to medium sized shrub 0.5-1m tall and wide with soft simple leaves and masses of bright red spider flowers throughout the winter months. It grows best in a dappled shade site, but will tolerate full sun if kept moist in summer and has a cool root run.



### ***Grevillea glabella* Narrow-leaf Rosemary Grevillea**

Often sold as *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* ssp *glabella*, however it is sufficiently distinct it has been recognised as a separate species. It is listed as endangered for Victoria as most of its inland Victorian habitat has been long cleared for farming. However it can still be found in the Whipstick north of Bendigo and Little Desert north of Horsham. It is a delightful dwarf plant often only 0.2-0.4m tall and wide, making it wonderful as a small rockery plant. In winter it is a mass of pink and white to red and white spider flowers for many months. Often available from specialist native nurseries, grow in a warm dry site in sun to semi-shade.



### ***Grevillea tenuiloba* 'Golden Glory'**

This is one of the real gems of Australia's West where it is sadly now a listed rare and endangered species. In the wild, plants only grow 0.3-0.5m tall and around 1m wide and are covered in spectacular pendant golden toothbrush flowers. Plants are extremely hardy once established in a sunny well drained site, but have proven to be a bit difficult to propagate from cuttings. Often available at specialist native nurseries, and occasionally as a spectacular weeping standard for more formal gardens. It is very popular with honeyeaters, attracted to the nectar filled flowers.



### ***Grevillea nivea* or 'Scarlet King'**

A very large and most beautiful *Grevillea* from limited coastal areas near Bremer Bay, on the south coast of WA. This is a wonderful plant for larger gardens where it can be allowed to spread to several metres tall and up to 3-4m wide. It flowers for many months of the year, almost continuously when there is sufficient subsoil moisture available. It can be readily pruned to a smaller size if desired. Often available at nurseries, often as *Grevillea* 'Scarlet King'.



### ***Grevillea dielsiana* Diels *Grevillea***

A most attractive long-flowered *Grevillea* from the Murchison River area north of Geraldton in Western Australia. Despite its very prickly foliage, its flowers are such delightful pendant racemes, with delicate colour variations from rich scarlet through several shades of orange, to bright yellows. The prickly foliage is valuable for sheltering small birds that often nest in the plants in our garden. We have them in a group with several colours all planted together giving a fascinating and quite dramatic effect. Grow in a well-drained sunny to dappled shade site in a light sandy to gravel soil. Occasionally available at native plant nurseries.



I hope you enjoyed this small selection of the wonderful winter-flowering *Grevilleas* that you can grow at home. Your garden will become a show-stopper during the dull days of winter, and add the attraction of luring in some of our beautiful native birds to your garden. The simple pleasure of seeing our native birds feeding on the uniquely Australian plants you have yourself planted will add a whole new dimension to your garden.



# Flower Table

A lovely flower table at the July meeting. Firstly Wendy Marriott stepped us through a beautiful bouquet (note that images, except for one, are not taken from the flowers Wendy brought)



*Dryandra longifolia*  
*ssp. archaeos*



*Grevillea magnifica*  
*ssp. magnifica*



*Isopogon*  
*'Stuckeys Pink'*



*Lysiosephalum abollatum*



*Banksia 'Giant Candles'*



*Marriottia wendyii ssp. felix 'Bonza Bouquet'*



*Banksia prionotes*



*Correa pulchella*



*Grevillea vestita*  
*'Mulberry Midnight'*



*Hakea invaginata*





*Banksia occidentalis*



*Correa 'Gwen'*



*Crowea exalata*

Then Fiona presented a lovely assortment of flowers she has been working with, all arranged in vases - a wonderful effort and appreciated by all.





# Group Calendar

PH = Pomonal Hall, SNH = Stawell Neighbourhood House  
Subject to change; walks will be arranged with an eye to the weather

<p><i>August</i> Tue 15<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm PH Adam Merrick, Trust for Nature Covenants Outings: walks in local area</p> <p><i>September</i> Tue 19<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm SNH Noushka Reiter - Native Orchids Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> APS Vic Committee of Management Meeting (COMM) &amp; AGM PH Post-COMM activities include Sat: Garden visit and dinner at Barney's Sun: WAMA &amp; Panrock Ridge Mon-Wed: bird walks, orchid walks, Gar Falls walk (moderate), Heatherlie Quarry walk (easy), WAMA tour, Winery visit</p> <p>Thu 28<sup>th</sup>-Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Flower show preparation: vases, flowers, hall, marquee</p>	<p><i>October</i> Sat 30<sup>th</sup> (Sep)-Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Pomonal Flower Show Outings: walks in local area Tue 17<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm PH Monica and Phil trip up north Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>-Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Little Desert campout with Maree &amp; Graham Goods</p> <p><i>November</i> Tue 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting &amp; AGM SNH Ade Foster Frogs Outings: walks in local area - higher country "2<sup>nd</sup> spring"</p> <p><i>December</i> Tue 19<sup>th</sup> Xmas break up at Jocelyn &amp; John's</p> <p><i>January</i> No meeting</p>
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[See also plant shows & sales of other APS Vic district groups](#)

You are encouraged to contribute to future editions of this newsletter, be it photos, articles, questions, suggestions or whatever; send to

[grampiansnewsletter@apsvic.org.au](mailto:grampiansnewsletter@apsvic.org.au)

Thank you to all those who contributed to this edition

## APS Vic Grampians Committee

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