



Web: <https://apsvic.org.au/aps-grampians/>

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NEXT MEETING



Tuesday 19th Sep 7:30pm
Stawell Neighbourhood House
Noushka Reiter - "Native Orchids"
Supper to be provided by A-K

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Group Notes

Our Newsletter

A formal sincere thank you to Phil Williams for his years of producing the group newsletter, month in, month out, and to all the contributors over the years who made each edition possible; although, if contributions were in short supply, Phil invariably penned something of interest.

John King is the stand-in editor, but would appreciate it if someone else took on the role. It is relatively straightforward, with no special software needed .. just putting out a call for contributions, selecting a few from the flood that pours in, then remembering whether A-K does supper, or L-Z.

September Activities

Besides our next meeting, there is the APS Vic AGM & quarterly gathering being hosted by us (see group calendar at the end of this newsletter). Members may be called upon to lend a hand with registration, setting up & clearing away lunch and morning tea, help with the barbecue at WAMA on Sunday the 24th and baking something for afternoon tea that same day. Thursday the 28th will be the start of the flower show set up, and there will be jobs to do each day until the volunteer meal on Sunday afternoon.

Little Desert Trip

At the time of writing, ten members had registered for the October camp-out, led by Maree & Graham Goods. If numbers are low, we will extend the invitation to others who have expressed an interest.

[Click here for the registration form.](#)

Last Meeting

A pleasant, relaxed meeting in August. Our guest speaker, Adam Merrick, was unable to attend (we wish him a speedy recovery), and so we had a grand specimen table. This was a meeting for those who just enjoyed flowers for their scent and beauty, since our reliable id man, Neil Marriott, was absent and many species went unidentified. Frank gave a good presentation that was very well received with masses of flowers that he selected for their interest and beauty. He had his own names for them all and the description of his property, transformed from a salt pan and a couple of trees to being revegetated with native plants, orchards, veggie garden and hot house, made us all keen for a visit. Hopefully one can be arranged.

Jocelyn gave a quick update on the progress of the arrangements for the flower show (read further in this newsletter) and handed out posters for distribution.



Flower Show Update

Preparations are progressing well for this year's native flower show.

Posters and flyers have and are being distributed far and wide, radio talks are being set up and there will soon be an article appearing in the Ararat, Stawell and Horsham newspapers.

This year the theme is **'Eucalypts'**, and we are lucky to have **Dean Nicolle** coming to speak both days on **'Small eucalypts for the home garden'** and **'Current research on Eucalypts.'** Dean established Currency Creek Arboretum in South Australia, which has the largest collection of eucalypt species in the world. He will have copies of his new book, **'Native eucalypts of Victoria and Tasmania - South-Eastern Australia'** for sale.

Another highlight this year is the **'Pomonal Wildflower and Eucalypt walk'**, a self-guided walk you can take at any time during the weekend around Pomonal to see some spectacular wildflowers and significant eucalypts that grow locally. Between **11am and 1pm on Saturday the 30th** there will be musical and other surprises along the way. Registration will be near the marquee.

There will also be a self-guided **'Eucalypt and flower walk'** at the Halls Gap Botanic gardens.

The timetable for speakers at the show is outlined below

Time	Saturday 30th September	Sunday 1st October
10am	Paul Kelly 'Welcome to country' and cultural importance of eucalypts	Denis Crawford 'The teeming hordes – the insects of eucalypts'
12pm	Dean Nicolle 'Smaller eucalypts for planting in your garden'	Dean Nicolle 'Adventures in eucalypt research'
2pm	Attila Kapitany 'Edible native succulents' and 'Bottle trees and brachychitons'	Neil Marriott 'WAMA Grampians endemic garden and the endemic eucalypts'

We have linked with other like-minded groups by setting up a Facebook page for the show. Check it out - [Pomonal Native Flower Show](#)

At the last APS meeting before the flower show on **Tuesday 19th September** we will have all the rosters to fill out.

It would be great if you can attend to sign up where you can.

Meanwhile, if you can **be collecting interesting gumnuts (and bring them to the next meeting) and leaves, bark and long-cut eucalypt branches, and bring them on Friday 29th Sept** that would be fantastic.

Thanks

Your flower show coordinators

Spring Flowers Abroad

Spring Flowers in Britain

Catherine Pye & Clive Carlyle

We recently spent ~2 months (April 13 – June 7) in the UK catching up with relatives and friends, and fitting in some walking in far NW Scotland.

Early spring is a fascinating time to visit the UK. Deciduous woodlands have yet to burst into leaf so they are light and open with carpets of wildflowers. Later as the trees leaf up and light levels on the forest floor decline these wildflower carpets die back. By travelling south from Edinburgh to Devon then north again extended our spring because, from a seasonal perspective, Devon is probably 2 months ahead of far NW Scotland.

Landscape, geology and climate vary profoundly between southern England and far NW Scotland; something that is really striking given the relatively short distances involved. Also striking is the day length in northern Scotland at this time of year, we were getting 19 hours of daylight. We don't experience this in Victoria because Scotland is much further north than Victoria is south. Of course, you pay for this in Winter!

There isn't much in Britain that is truly natural. Almost every part has been profoundly impacted by human activity. Probably the only relatively undisturbed areas undisturbed would be the high mountain tops, but even these have been altered by climate change. There are precious areas of "ancient woodland", basically areas that have always been wooded, although most of these have been managed in the past; coppice and pollarding. Hedgerows are incredibly important habitats, effectively miniature linear woodlands. Hedges were originally used as fences to enclose areas and demarcate boundaries. Some hedgerows date back to the mediaeval period, 500-1500 AD, or even older! They can be aged very approximately by counting the number of woody species per 30m, the older the hedgerow the more woody species. [Hedgerow dating - TCV Practical Conservation Handbooks](#)

Apart from spring wildflowers in deciduous woodland the other springtime delight are wildflower meadows. Across the UK ancient grazing practices supported species rich pastures abounding with wildflowers and butterflies. Sadly, these are increasingly rare due to higher grazing intensities and fertiliser use.

The ruggedly spectacular but largely treeless landscapes that define much of Scotland are man-made, they should be forested. Remnants of the great Caledonian Pine Forest (dominated by Scots Pine, *Pinus sylvestris*) that once covered much of northern Scotland still persist. So to do patches of mixed deciduous forest (birch, alder, aspen, elder and oak). But these are a tiny percentage of what once was. Pollen records show that forest clearing started on a tiny scale in neolithic times, picking up through the bronze and iron ages, then increasingly accelerating from the 1600s with the increase in iron smelting. Extermination of predator populations meant red deer numbers increased dramatically, their browsing

preventing regeneration of tree seedlings across cleared areas. Widespread introduction of sheep to Scotland in the late 18th century exacerbated the browsing pressure, further inhibiting forest regeneration. Large highland estates promoted deer and grouse shooting to a wealthy elite, helping to promote an unnaturally high deer population and the extermination of anything that might conceivably eat grouse (stoats, weasels, and raptors.) Loss of forest and the ensuing land use changes has meant loss of biodiversity; bear, wolf, lynx, wildcat, pine marten, beaver, wild boar. Still, it is not all gloom. Increasingly individuals, organisations and consortia are reforesting large areas of Scotland. But not just reforesting. Moray-based charity Trees for Life is working with Rewilding Europe, along with 20 landowners and six organisations on a major new project that aims to rewild an area of more than 202,343ha in the Highlands. The Scottish Rewilding Alliance is promoting the goal of Scotland becoming the first “rewilded nation”. [Scotland could become first ‘rewilded’ nation—what does that mean? \(nationalgeographic.com\)](https://www.nationalgeographic.com) and [Home - The Scottish Rewilding Alliance](#)

Despite the lack of forest, Scotland is still a haven for wildlife seldom seen further south. This is mainly because much of Scotland has a low population density and hasn't been subjected to more intensive agriculture. We were lucky enough to see a Golden Eagle (only 400 pairs in Scotland) and a Snow Bunting (only 60 resident pairs). We heard Cuckoos daily in Scotland and frogs abounded. The high mountain tops have a diverse arctic/alpine flora, always a good excuse to stop for a breather when slogging up a steep 1,000m climb!





Spring Flowers at Home

Graham & Adrienne sent these photos from an exploration of the northern Grampians - "A magnificent array of wildflowers to be seen. The prickly Grevilleas, Pink Heath and a variety of Wattles as well as the Thryptomene everywhere! We took a circular route from Hall's Gap, along Mt Zero Rd, Pohlner Rd and back through Rose's Gap.



Golden Wattle, *Acacia pycnantha*, Hollow Mountain Car Park



Desert Banksia, *Banksia ornata*, Hollow Mountain Car Park



Approaching Trooper's Creek from the West, *Acacia longifolia* present



Grampians Thryptomene (*Thryptomene calycina*) in abundance; this avenue of blossom taken at Junction of Mt Zero and Rose's Gap Rd



My everlasting daisies are in bloom and so far only about 1/3 of them are flowering. They self-seeded in the gravel and have also self-seeded in garden beds. Many more flowers yet to appear - Andrea S

Group Calendar

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

<p><i>September</i> Tue 19th 7:30pm SNH Noushka Reiter - <i>Native Orchids</i></p> <p>Sat 23rd APS Vic Committee of Management Meeting (COMM) & AGM PH Post-COMM activities include Sat: Garden visit and dinner at Barney's Sun: WAMA & Panrock Ridge Mon-Wed: bird walks, orchid walks, Gar Falls walk (moderate), Heatherlie Quarry walk (easy), WAMA tour, Winery visit</p> <p>Thu 28th-Fri 29th Flower show preparation: vases, flowers, hall, marquee</p> <p><i>October</i> Sat 30th (Sep)-Sun 1st Pomonal Flower Show</p>	<p><i>October cont.</i> Outings: walks in local area Tue 17th 7:30pm PH Monica and Phil trip up north Sun 22nd-Wed 25th Little Desert campout with Maree & Graham Goods</p> <p><i>November</i> Tue 21st Meeting & AGM SNH Ade Foster Frogs Outings: walks in local area - higher country "2nd spring"</p> <p><i>December</i> Tue 19th Xmas break up at Jocelyn & 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

Thank you to all those who contributed to this edition

APS Vic Grampians Committee

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