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## NEXT MEETING



**Tue 19th Dec** Our end-of-year break up will be at Jocelyn & John King's.  
**What to bring:** the committee are bringing mains. Please bring A-K a salad to share or L-Z a dessert, also something to sit on and your own beverages. Bbq facilities and kitchen available.  
**Monster raffle** for a charity to be decided. Native plant inspired donations may be brought along.  
**When:** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Dec from 5.30pm  
**Where:** 481 Long Gully Rd Pomonal (cross Redman Rd and pass camping ground on left & house on right and proceed for 300m down laneway sign-posted *No Through Rd*; enter gate at left. Cross dry creek-bed, pass white weatherboard to the right and continue along driveway)

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## Announcements

### November AGM

The Annual General Meeting successfully voted in a brand new committee. We retained the talented pair John King (as Treasurer/Membership) and Jocelyn King, (Event Manager) and our faithful secretary Margot Galletly. We welcome our new president (our first lady president in my memory), Fiona Lucas, who is now primed to make her mark on the years to come. Congratulations Fiona, and welcome to all the volunteers on our new committee: see end of newsletter. Roles still available are

APSVic delegate and Neutrog coordinator. The committee meets quarterly.

APS Vic. Excellent news:-

Our current Acting Secretary, Chris Long, who was for a long time APSV President and Secretary has announced the role of APSV Secretary has finally been filled. Chris hopes to complete the handover to Charles Hrubos before Christmas. We congratulate Charles, and look forward to meeting him.

## November Meeting

By John King

A very good turn out, with quite a number of guests, was there promptly at 7:30pm for Ade Foster's talk on Gariwerd frogs. The tech gods were not smiling favourably on us that night: Telstra decided Stawell and district could comfortably cope with an 8 day intermittent mobile and internet blackout, and someone had snitched the cable we needed to show the presentation on the projector. Jacqui to the rescue with the cable. No-one to the rescue with the internet!

Ade does the newsletter for APS Geelong. He enjoys photography (mainly orchids and birds), plants, frogs and African animals, amongst other things. He is currently a safari guide at Werribee Zoo and his attraction to the animals has taken him to Africa many times. With frogs on the menu, so to speak, he initially delved into the world of amphibians, including salamanders, newts and axolotls (did you know that that Mexican Walking Fish form with the external gills that some people keep in aquariums is the juvenile form; give it iodine and it turns into the sterile adult .. that's right, the juvenile form only can reproduce).



There is only one true toad in Australia, and that is the delightful introduced Cane Toad; all others are frogs, and we are blessed locally with up to 11 species. His slides were well laid out, with photo, distribution map and notes, and we all heard the calls of each species over speakers Ade had brought along.

Ade considered the populations where chytrid fungus hasn't made its presence felt, such as Gariwerd, were relatively stable. Frogs, he said, far from being the canaries in the coalmine, were pretty tough characters able to withstand quite a bit. They happily breed in roadside pools fed by road runoff, including oils and other substances vehicles deposit

as they make their noisy way. Climate change presents its swings and roundabouts, with storm events benefiting our amphibian friends.

Ade lastly spoke of the efforts of Zoos Victoria to breed endangered frog species, such as the Southern Corroboree Frog, with fewer than 50 remaining in their natural habitat of Kosciuszko National Park above 1300m. These little treasures will almost certainly be adversely impacted by climate change, with the young only emerging from their eggs with the spring snow melt.

Ade was a very good presenter, who spoke in a clear, easy manner on an interesting topic and I doubt any of the attendees went home disappointed.

# Jallukar Grasslands Project

## Wildflower and Seed collection walk in Illawarra State Forest

Sunday 26th November

We met at the piles of road-screenings on Stawell-Halls Gap Road to walk into the Illawarra Nature Conservation Reserve looking for seeds to enhance the selection already under cultivation in the Jallukar Grasslands Project Seed Bank at Phil's Wildflower Nursery. Grasslands are one of the richest vegetation types in the state, and the most depleted. Anthea, Phil and Phill, Mary-Anne, John and Jocelyn, Wendy, Neil and Molly all spread out and managed to collect the following seeds. Good work team.



*Flax, Blushing Bindweed, Chocolate Lily and Blue Devil*

*Arthropodium fimbriatum*, Chocolate Lily, *Craspedia variabilis*, Billy buttons, *Dodonaea procumbens*, *Linum marginale*, Native Flax, *Brachyscome dentata*, *Bulbine bulbosa*, *Calocephalus citreus*, *Eutaxia microphylla*, *Podolepis jaceoides*, *Leptorhynchos squamatus*, *Coronidium scorpioides*, *Pultenaea laxiflora* and *Rytidosperma duttoniana* Brown backed wallaby grass. Also a rare *Templetonia* sp wasn't quite ripe so we bagged it and hope to find it again after this rain.

By Mary-Anne Jess. Species list Phil Williams

## From your Committee

Fiona has asked me to pass on her thanks to members, and this is a snapshot of her first meeting as President. We have a theme for our 40th Show: Gariwerd and Beyond, Indigenous Food and other Plant Uses or something like that. Hopefully you will all be stimulated into lots of ideas for this year's special flower show. The show committee will again be led by Jocelyn who we have discovered has amazing management capabilities, initially while covid restrictions were modifying our aspirations, and last year, when Jocelyn brought everyone together so that our annual flower show was elevated into a major regional event.

Working Bees this year will include adding more gravel mulch to the Hall gardens and repair of the plant labels. Other ideas for purchase of group assets are invited. The group will also be involved with the low-risk garden planned for the CFA shed and with the RBG Cranbourne work on rare local native orchids.

Margot Galletly continues as secretary of a great new team. Catherine Carlyle returns to the committee which includes Ross Simpson, Neil Macumber, Lisa Ashdowne, Neil and myself. We all hope our treasurer John King will continue to assist all of the new committee members, especially me.

Editor

## From the Flower Table

Neil Marriott



*Verticordia* "Paddy's Pink"

Following on from last meeting's specimen table, I thought our members might like a little more information on our species that were on display.

X*Verticordia* 'Paddy's Pink' is actually what is known as an intergeneric hybrid. This means that it is a hybrid between two different genera, in this case a cross between *Chamelaucium* Wax-Flower and *Verticordia plumosa*. It is also often sold as *Chamelaucium* 'Paddy's Pink' or *Chamelaucium x Verticordia* 'Paddy's Pink'.

Whatever we call it, [Ed. calls it Camcordia] it is a very hardy and showy plant to around 1.5m x 1.5m with attractive fine grey-green leaves and massed mauve-pink flowers from late spring to early summer. It is an ideal cut flower, as plants can be pruned back hard if desired, and is drought hardy. It likes a sunny, well drained site in the garden.

*Calothamnus quadrifidus* 'Pencil' This extremely hardy and showy One-sided Bottlebrush comes from WA and is a tall, slender selection. It is an ideal plant for attracting birds to your garden and it will fit perfectly along a narrow pathway, beside a wall, fence or wherever tall narrow plants are needed. It grows to 2m x 1m and flowers for many months of the year during spring and early summer. It must be propagated by cuttings to retain the tall narrow habit, and it strikes readily from cuttings of firm young wood.



*Calothamnus quadrifidus* 'Pencil'

# President's Report Grampians Group 2023

## *Annual Report by John King*

Another good year for the group with plenty of activities. The meeting split between Pomonal Hall and Stawell Neighbourhood House has been working well and is fairer for members. I am required to give a brief run-down of the events over the year since the previous AGM in October 2022.

Monica & Phil Coleman talked in November about a topic close to their hearts: walks in the Grampians! Recently Monica fell ill and needed extended care. We feel for both of them and look forward to seeing them back, hale and hearty.

The December Xmas break-up was hosted by Fiona & John Lucas. It was cold, wet and windy, but warm hospitality and good company made for an enjoyable end of year gathering.

Our first meeting of the new year is in February. Bruce McInnes chatted to the group about wetlands, mainly in the Wimmera where his work takes him.

March saw us all back in Stawell Neighbourhood House to hear Kevin Collins expound on his favourite topic .. Banksias. Just because someone is a recognised expert in some area, doesn't necessarily make them a good speaker. Kevin is passionate, knowledgeable and gave an excellent presentation to a packed house .. and not just members. The following day he led a Banksia & Dryandra-focused walk at Panrock Ridge. We held a well-attended propagation day in early April. Phil Williams' wonderful nursery facilities mean that those who didn't take advantage of them definitely missed out: expert instruction, all materials supplied and your cuttings left in the best of care. The proof of the pudding, as they say, and most of the propagated specimens have borne roots and are thriving in the hot house. Definitely try to make the next one. Chris Clarke, previous APS Vic president and contributor to the excellent APS Keilor Plains book on Plants of Melbourne's Western Plains, was the April speaker, and his presentation was centred on this ecosystem. He also gave insights into that biodiversity hotspot .. iNaturalist!

Ian Evans spoke in May. Over from Bendigo, Ian brought mulch samples as props for his garden landscaping presentation. The following day he drove out to the new house of yours truly and Jocelyn and gave general advice to the small gathering on laying out a new garden. Winter is the season for afternoon meetings, members having voted in favour of not heading out to meetings on chilly, early sunset nights. In June we followed a hall-and-Jane's-garden working bee with a talk by Neil Macumber on his adventures as part of the Desert Discovery team.

In July many of us headed over to Margot Galletly's to plant thousands of young trees, overseen by Project Platypus. Some have not survived, and poor Margot has spent many an hour replacing plant guards that have been blown to kingdom come by the fierce winds we have had since then. Still, she is the proud custodian of a nascent bushland where once there was bare paddock. We look forward to visits to see its growth. The afternoon July talk was meant to be by our two Neils on their Birdswing tour to WA, but Neil Mac found himself in Covid isolation and only just managed to get the USB of the presentation to the other Neil who, you can well imagine, was equal to the task. Adam Merrick was unable to present in August, and so we had a grand specimen table.

September arrived all too quickly as the year started speeding up. Noushka Reiter spoke on her propagation of native orchids and her grant to seek out and propagate endangered species of all genera. I hope some members have joined in her search. I bush-bashed with Noushka, Neil Marriott and others in

the hunt for the endangered Grampians Globe Pea, and we found a previously-unknown population of 30 specimens. Very rewarding.

By September, spring flowering is well underway, and our group starts to gear up to our flower show. This year we also hosted the APS Vic quarterly gathering and AGM. From the feedback I have received, this was a great success that only improved the reputation of our region. Everything ran smoothly and the four and a half days of events following the meetings were well-attended and made one proud to be a local. But the weather .. the weather was too perfect .. it couldn't possibly last until the flower show. Temperatures in the 20's, light winds, blue skies.. A very good flower show. Eucalypts was a good theme, backed up by guest speaker Dean Nicolle, another expert in his field and also an excellent presenter. Perfect conditions on the Saturday; then the wind got up Saturday night and Jocelyn & I lay awake into the wee hours of Sunday listening to it bearing down in ever-strengthening gusts. Then the call came from Alison at the pre-daylight saving time of 6am: the marquee is looking the worse for wear. Sure enough, it was like a beached whale on the oval, a short distance from where it had been originally pitched. It had been picked up and dropped to earth again, bending and buckling its rigid skeleton. I've sourced replacement parts and it will grace the oval once more next year, but this time better-tethered.

Our speaker arrangements fell through in October and so we headed over to Frank's place for some home-grown wisdom and a transformative farm tour. October also saw many of us heading over to the western block of the Little Desert for a camp-out and tour under the guidance of Graham & Maree Goods. It was excellent. Next Spring we plan to visit Currency Creek Eucalypt Arboretum in SA and nearby gardens.

Our membership stands at 64, down from 70 individuals last year. Our committee was well-balanced and constructive and we can look back on a satisfying year.

#### Finance

As the treasurer's report shows, we have a healthy bank balance of over \$22,000, which includes almost \$1,000 in unspent grant money. Member suggestions on what to spend money on are welcome.

#### Community

We were pleased to lend our projector, laptop & sound system to community events. We are proud of the community gardens we help maintain (Jane's Garden (thanks Anthea for your inspiration here) and the Pomonal Hall garden). We are supporting the Pomonal CFA initiative to establish a fire-resistant garden around the CFA shed.

Ours is a good group with very solid foundations and 2024 promises to be an excellent year.. Best wishes to you all.

*By John King, November '23*

PS by Editor. I'll share a little history that the annual reports do not divulge, and a quote from this week because it's such a typical response:

"As always, the Kings are happy to help worthwhile projects where we can. Count us in".

Years ago when the APSVic web-master couldn't continue maintaining the statewide website, John King said he could help. I didn't think he knew how big a task it was, until he also offered to write a

membership system giving all Victorian district groups online membership (and subscription) capability. The quarterly APSVic meetings were transformed as John reported his progress and his success and added more and more brilliant user options. The system went live last year. John drives the system for the APS Vic Membership officer.

After at least 5 years as President of APS Grampians, John King is changing to our Treasurer. This is a role he is completely familiar with, because he also designed a system of reporting on our bank transactions that is utterly reliable. John and Jocelyn are not long-standing members of Grampians APS, but John took on the presidency when they were relatively new to the area and still part time in Melbourne. Father of teenage girls, gently spoken and overly humble that his knowledge was not adequate, but John accepted the role because our AGMs had become awkward silences with no takers for the positions that keep the society in existence. He volunteered, answering a dire need, and although initially reluctant, took on more and more tasks so that he became far more than president. We now Acknowledge Country and Pay Respect to Traditional Owners before all meetings. John has increased participation on the committee and our membership, and set high standards, such as for speaker gifts and community support. John's computer abilities meant he could help communications become electronic, the committee and members began to understand 'clicking links' and 'sharing documents'. Now our newsletter is on the APSV website, accessed via a link. Everything flows, including the social atmosphere at meetings, the chatter and experiences. Surely John's most important achievement.

Also looking after membership, equipment, banking and emails, newsletter editing, always at the meeting venue to open up, set up, welcome everyone and introduce the speaker. President John steps aside at his peak. His finger is on the pulse with all members, widespread as they are, and with the Pomonal community, always kind and diplomatic, always respectful and always open to ideas.



*John King leading the Gar walk, with Neil, Joan, Phil and Anthea*

# APS Grampians Group Calendar 2024

Monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday 7.30pm, June/July the 3rd Sat 2pm. Even months at PH (Pomonal Hall, Ararat-Halls Gap Rd) Odd months except Jan and July at SNH (Stawell Neighbourhood House, 42 Sloane Street Stawell).

Outings and activities are subject to change; e.g. walks will be arranged with an eye to the weather

## *December 2023*

Meeting:

Tue 19<sup>th</sup> Our end-of-year break up will be at Jocelyn & John King's. See above Announcements

## *January 2024*

Happy New Year! Summer recess - no meeting

## *February*

Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting 7.30pm: PH, Speaker Elia Pirtle,

Also:

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Working Bee and @ 11.30 am, a BBQ farewell for member Margo Sietsma who is moving to Canberra

## *March*

Tue 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting 7.30pm: SNH, Speaker to be confirmed

## *April*

Tue 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting 7.30pm: PH, Speaker Royce Raleigh- Growing Hakeas in his Grampians garden

## *May*

Tue 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting 7.30pm: SNH, Speaker: Miriam Ford Mintbushes

## *June*

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2pm: PH, Speaker to be confirmed

## *July*

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2pm:SNH, Speaker to be confirmed

Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Working Bee

## *August*

Tue 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting 7.30pm: PH, Speaker to be confirmed

## *September*

Sat, 7th Sun 8th Outing: Currency Creek Arboretum

Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting 7.30pm: SNH, Show planning

Sat 21st Sun 22nd Event: 40th Pomonal Flower Show

## *October*

Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting 7.30pm: PH, Speaker to be confirmed

## *November*

Tue 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting 7.30pm: SNH, Speaker to be confirmed

## *December*

Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting 7.30pm: Christmas breakup to be confirmed

[See also plant shows & sales of other APS Vic district groups](#)



## Australian Plants Society Grampians District Group

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 Grampians Group Committee

President: Fiona Lucas

Vice President: Neil Marriott

Secretary: [Margot Galletly](#)

Treasurer: John King

Memberships: John King

Hall Committee Representative: Lisa Ashdowne

Flower-show coordinator: [Jocelyn King](#)

Neil Macumber

Newsletter Editor: [Wendy Marriott](#)

Ross Simpson