



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

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NEXT MEETING
at Pomonal Hall
Saturday 15th June 2pm
Marilyn Sprague presents
Growing Australian Flowers for Floristry.
Meet us beforehand 11.30am for weeding.
BYO picnic lunch at 1pm with a Cuppa from the kitchen

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Announcements

The executive of APS Victoria approved our grant proposal (\$10,000) to rebuild our community nursery facilities at Phil Williams' Wildflower Nursery.

Pomonal Native Flower Show 2024

Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September 2024

It is our 40th show AND we are featuring edible Australian plants.

Our special guest is Clarence Slockee from 'Gardening Australia'.

Working Bee Sat. June 15th

Come before the meeting from 11.30-1 and help finish weeding the Hall Garden, mulch still to come. BYO lunch to picnic together before the meeting.

Next Meeting



15th June 2024 Marilyn Sprague.

After selling her famous Goldfields Revegetation Nursery about
15 years ago

Marilyn has established an amazing Wildflower farm on the
outskirts of Bendigo.

Growing Australian Flowers for Floristry.

This talk will start with an overview of the market for wildflowers in Australia
and then give you an insight into
Marilyn's Wildflower Farm at Mandurang.

Subjects covered will include site preparation, irrigation, mulch,
maintenance and harvesting

Flowers are available all year and Marilyn will also look at what is flowering monthly.

Last Meeting



Tuesday 21st May Our May speaker, at Stawell Neighbourhood House, was Dr Miriam Ford the current president of APS Victoria. Miriam has a small business called Mims Mints specialising in growing and selling a large variety of Prostanthera species in addition to other Australian plants.

<https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/how-to/fresh-mint/14033624>.

Miriam spoke about this wonderfully aromatic genus of Australian plants, the variety of species across Australia, and the 'Cradle of Incense'. She included some history about their naming, and that all Prostantheras have 2 calyx lobes (sometimes very enlarged like *P. magnifica*). Miriam explained the two types of flower morphology, wide or tubular, and how that informs us about the pollinators and evolution. How interesting to understand the meaning of the word

Prostanthera and see Miriam's photo of the little 'prosthesis' on the anther when enlarged. Miriam talked about studies on the essential oil profiles of various species, that our local Mintbush *Prostanthera rotundifolia* is edible, as is *P. incisa*, which Miriam uses in her sourdough. So many species were covered, from excellent knowledge but presented in an easy to understand manner. Miriam included their propagation and cultivation with beautiful photos from

gardens. We also learned that their sister genus, *Westringia* has 5 (not 2) calyx lobes and its leaves are in whorls.

Finally we were all encouraged to attend the national biennial conference ANPSA 2024 which APS Vic is hosting this year, and has bus tours coming to our area, before and after the conference. Many thanks to Miriam for travelling to our meeting and presenting such an enlightening talk.

Unfortunately the National Hotel is now closed on Tuesdays (like Barneys in Pomonal), however a quick communication and a good turnout of members and guests enjoyed a meal at the Gift instead.

Wendy Marriott

Pomonal Native Flower Show 2024

From Jocelyn, Andrea and Fiona

Pomonal Native Flower Show - 21st and 22nd September 2024

Note the earlier date this year and please put this in your diaries as it will be great to have as many helpers as possible over the weekend.

Organisation of the show is progressing well.

We are very excited to have Clarence Slockee coming from Gardening Australia

We also have Anthony and Julie coming from Peppermint Ridge farm in Tynong North. They have an edible native plant nursery and will be helping us with our special feature, 'Edible Australian Plants'.

From the President

Australian Plant Society Grampians Group – June 2024 Presidents Report for Newsletter

With all the activity that went on last month, it was a very small reference to a very large project that I now wish to elaborate on particularly for those who were unable to attend the last meeting. This is ‘The Pomonal Community Nursery’.

Successful applications were made to both APS VIC annual district group grant for \$10,000 and Ararat Windfarm Sustainable Grants Program for \$5,000.

Background: As we are all aware, over the years Phil Williams has graciously donated the use of his nursery to our group and other community groups to ensure the conservation of plants & grasses, endemic to our region and any plant native to Australia. The loss of this due to the recent fires was less a concern for us than the fact that Phil also lost his home. However, with the news of Phil's return and offer to host the nursery once again on his block adjacent to his home the committee has prioritised the rebuild.

Neil & Wendy Marriot rigorously wrote the application to APS VIC. This application included endorsements from Jallukar Landcare, Pomonal Progress Association and WAMA. John King rigorously wrote the successful application to the Ararat Windfarm. Thank you to all.

A condition of both applications was that should the nursery be removed from that site at a time in the future, we will still be able to own and relocate the majority of the infrastructure.

An excerpt from the APS VIC application:

Why Is the Project Needed? The project is needed because the community nursery was the centre for regular working bees and many of our APSGG functions were sited here, from propagation for raffle prizes, flower show sales, to member training days, student education, seed cleaning. Phil always welcomed members trying to propagate and grow their own native plants. We wish to promote it as truly a community nursery for the growing of native plants for local gardens, whether APS members or not. It is needed now more than ever to give residents encouragement that there is a future after the devastation and we can start with restoring blackened gardens. It is also a chance to grow natives where previously exotics grew. APS Members and Pomonal community members will be able to start growing their own plants and restore their own gardens and those around them that were damaged in the fire.



Now the real work begins. These financial contributions cover the products to rebuild but not the labour. So, we will be appealing to you all and the broader community for assistance with this once the site is ready



(Wendy, Phil, Miriam Ford our VIC APS president and Neil at our last meeting as we were able to thank her and announce to our members this fantastic outcome)



Next Meeting 15th June at Pomonal Hall activities include:

11.30 – 1pm: Working bee at the hall. This will complete the garden rejuvenation ensuring it will be flourishing for our Spring flower show. To new members, this is a perfect way to learn some basic gardening skills, ask questions about what plant is that and generally meet other members.

1pm – BYO lunch and library

2pm – Marilyn Sprague talk

2.45pm - Afternoon tea (A - K)

3.15 - 3.45 - flower table , Q&A.

Join us for all or some of it but be sure it will invigorate your mid winter day.

Why grow Australian plants? *Flower colour: whatever your heart desires there is an Australian plant for you. The entire palette is available from the palest cream to the brightest red. You can have an all white garden if you want.*

From 'Growing Australian' – a resource kit for growing a home garden in Victoria. Written by APS Vic. 2009

Fiona Lucas

President

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Flowering Now

Members are encouraged to bring a sprig of anything in their garden in flower or to identify.
Our May flower table included:

Correa mannii variegated
Banksia integrifolia variety *montana*
Grevillea hodgeii Coochin Hills
Grevillea 'Spirit of Anzac'
Grevillea bipinnatifida
Thryptomene denticulata

Grampians Group Calendar 2024

We meet monthly on the 3rd Tuesday 7.30pm, except 3rd Saturday 2pm in June & July, recess January
Even months at PH (Pomonal Hall, Ararat-Halls Gap Rd) or a member's garden.
Odd months at SNH (Stawell Neighbourhood House, 42 Sloane Street Stawell) or a member's garden.
Outings/activities communicated in this newsletter; subject to change - eg with an eye on the weather

June Sat 15th 11.30-1pm: PH Working Bee (before the meeting)

June Sat 15th Meeting 2pm: PH, Speaker Marilyn Sprague 'Native Cut Flowers'

July Sat 20th Meeting 2pm:SNH, Speaker Alan Bedggood Grasses and pressing specimens

August Tue 20th Meeting 7.30pm: PH, Speaker Helen Lovell, Neutrog TBC

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

September Tue 17th Meeting 7.30pm: SNH, Show planning, Neil Marriott 'My Top 20 Grevilleas'

September Sat 21st Sun 22nd Event: **40th Pomonal Native Flower Show with Clarence Slockee**

October Tue 15th Meeting 7.30pm: PH, Ben Gunn 'Archaeology of the Grampians/Gariwerd'

November Tue 19th Meeting 7.30pm: SNH, Phil & Monica Coleman 'Travels and flora we bumped into in the Top End'

December Tue 17th Meeting 7.30pm: Christmas breakup Marriotts

APSVictoria Committee of Management quarterly meetings - all members welcome:

11th May at Mt Martha Community House 9.30am plus Seaford Banksia Arboretum p.m visit.

27th and 28th July full quarterly weekend hosted by APS Bendigo

23rd and 24th November, quarterly weekend & AGM, hosted by APS Wangaratta.

30th September to 4th October at The Round, Nunawading. "Gardens for Life"
- 32nd ANPSA National Biennial Conference hosted by APS Victoria

2025 - 15th FJC Rogers Seminar: "Epacridaceae" hosted by APS Mornington Peninsula

2026 - South Australia Biennial conference will be held in Alice Springs.

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

To all members: Your contributions are sought for future editions,
Your pictures, your experiences or research are welcome; send to
grampiansnewsletter@apsvic.org.au

Thank you to those who contributed to this edition

Grevillea dimorpha painting by our member the late Ena Graham, botanic artist

APS Vic Grampians Committee

President: Fiona Lucas

Hall Committee Representative: Lisa Ashdowne

Vice President: Neil Marriott

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

Secretary: [Margot Galletly](#)

Neil Macumber

Treasurer: John King

Newsletter Editor: [Wendy Marriott](#)

Memberships: John King

Ross Simpson