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NEXT MEETING
2pm Saturday 20th July
 Alan Bedggood presents “Exploring Grasses”
Stawell Neighbourhood House
 Surnames L-Z please bring something to share
 Meet beforehand 1.30pm to walk round Cato Lake

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From the President

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July meeting update

We had a very active June meeting day. The working bee at the hall was well attended which enabled us to complete all corners of the garden in preparation for spraying weeds. This was followed by a group b.y.o. lunch inside the hall. It was lovely to have a chance to chat with each other.

Our guest speaker Marilyn Sprague wowed us with her flowers and talk (as detailed within). I am in awe of her achievements. It’s a full cycle of a flower’s life that Marilyn creates: From the nursery where plants are grafted / propagated. To the farm where they are grown. To the market

where she provides for florists and the public. How proud she must be to provide a bouquet of flowers for a client knowing every flower has been a result of her dedication. It is a rare service and achievement she is providing.

It was a bright ending to the session when one of our newest members Daryl Mair (experienced florist) was able to weave more magic into Marilyn's flowers and created a beautiful bouquet. We needed to select someone who could honour this special arrangement that represented strength, courage, beauty and inspiration.

- Strength because Marilyn explained to us how most of her plants are grafted using root stock from 'strong' plants
- Courage because those dear little plants had to leave their mother root and adopt another!
- Beauty – well I need say no more
- Inspiration – because we all left inspired to continue our journey to grow more Australian flowering beauties.



So who to give this special arrangement to? A quick decision was made but it must have been the right decision as there were many tears in the audience. It went to Anthi and Bill, our newest members who lost all in the recent fires but are fighting back with all the above attributes.

L-R Daryl, Marilyn, Anthi, Fiona, Bill



Saturday meetings?

We had at least 40 attendees at our June meeting. This is a terrific number, and I can only think that the previous committee members who wisely instigated the winter Saturday meetings would be very happy with this result. The audience was made up of: members who brought guests, members who are not from the immediate area, locals who are not members, guests just interested in the speaker topic. So on this note, John King raised this successful outcome at our recent committee meeting and proposed we switch from Tuesday evenings to Saturday afternoons on a permanent basis. The committee are conceptually onboard but would like to put it to our members to ensure we have a majority interested in this significant change. I think a show of hands at the next meeting and or an email to our APS GG email or a committee member indicating your preference would be really appreciated. Status quo with meeting dates until further advice.

Note. speakers and venues are booked for Tuesdays for the rest of the year.



Social Media:

At the moment our social media is focusing on the Pomonal flower show.

We have accounts with both facebook and Instagram.

Fb is the most active. We have had over 3,000 views, 250 engage in some way, 80 comments and over 200 followers. Most of these are from Melbourne with one each from India and Taiwan! Some high profile followers include Costa from Gardening Australia. We have joined 15+ interest groups aligned with Australian plants which broadens our connection with people with the same interest. Some of the comments from our followers include 'we are a group of 4 and have booked for the weekend' / Congratulations on celebrating 40 years / sounds great, I will try and get there.

Please follow us and share our event and posts. Any ideas for content or groups to follow please send to me.

Next Meeting:

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on the 20th July, 2pm, Stawell Neighbourhood house. Bring your favourite flowers or foliage from your garden and in this case, grasses to show our guest speaker Alan Bedggood. (see details within newsletter)

Why Grow Australian plants?

For foliage! – there is a wide variety of colour, texture and shape.

-From 'Growing Australian' – a resource for growing a home garden in Victoria. Written by APSVic2009 Fiona Lucas President Ph: 0418366362 / fionarlucas@gmail.com

Last Meeting by Margot Galletly

15th June 2024 Pomonal Hall, Guest Speaker Marilyn Sprague of Wildflower Farm, Bendigo

Natives in Floristry





Photo Neil Macumber

It was great to see such high attendance, with the subject and speaker obviously appealing. Not everyone is pictured but all were entertained, hopefully encouraged to grow our native plants.

Fiona welcomed visitors and new members, and reminded us about the library books for sale as well as those available for loan. Neil Marriott then introduced our guest speaker Marilyn Sprague who specialises in growing native flowers for the cut flower market. Located near Bendigo Marilyn explained that growing for the floristry market comes under the umbrella of Wildflowers Australia Pty Ltd (WFA) as the national industry association. Interestingly, under the WFA definition South African flowers (in the family Proteaceae such as *Leucadendron* and *Protea*) are included. Although Marilyn does not produce these, and grows exclusively Australian species, she explained that producing cut flowers is a very labour-intensive business and some florists even buy their own properties to grow for their own needs.



The clay/rocky soils at her Bendigo property, although often a struggle to deal with, are perfect for many species including Western Australian ones such as some *Banksias* and Geraldton Wax (*Chamelaucium* species) particularly if sand is added. Many wanted plants can be grafted onto species more suited to her soils. Marilyn specialises in cutting grafts, for example *Verticordias* onto Geraldton Wax rootstock and *Boronia clavata* makes an excellent rootstock for other boronias. This grafting technique is fashioned on the method used by Phil Trickett.

Marilyn has 2 Ha assigned to growing natives and says you need to understand the needs of the plants including pH and soil type. In addition, proofing your land from predation by rabbits and kangaroos is essential. Also used extensively are local species, in particular *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* and *Xerochrysum viscosum* (clustered and sticky everlastings) which make excellent cut flowers.

Soil preparation: Prior to planting lines were ripped on the contours, mounded, and a watering system installed to get plants up and away. Various mulches were tried mostly sand, stone, and some wood-chips, as well as weed mat for individual plants. Light and warmth are improved with sand mulch and also great for germinating other seeds. *Ammobium* and *Pycnosorus* grow well in sand and cope with the increase in heat. In addition they are long flowering and self-seed into the sand. Stone is preferred by flannel flowers as it is well drained.

Sourcing plants needs lots of time so you can get what you want. Most are planted in Autumn and tends to continue into Winter and early spring. But Spring planting then needs summer watering. All plants are watered in at planting, and are given Neutrog products.

Maintenance: includes weeding, pruning (although this is often achieved when harvesting the flowers) feeding and watering. Pests are generally not a problem. Irrigation uses dripper tubes and timers are invaluable to avoid water wastage. The watering system can be turned off once plants are established. Harvesting: 10 stems per bunch with prices varying depending on the difficulty to grow them, their rarity, and the time and cost to produce e.g. if a grafted plant. In Marilyn's instance the flowers are delivered by truck immediately following picking and so no cold-storage is required.

Marilyn went on to mention species of plant suitable for harvest throughout the year for example in December- *verticordia*, kangaroo paw, *ptilotus*

February - *persoonia*, *crowea*, *pimelea*, *leptospermum* and so on.

In September the local wildflowers start coming into their own and Marilyn has spent a great deal of time collecting local species to use. *Pigea floribunda* is a great example which has long flowering and is very dainty. Bendigo Wax, *Philotheca verrucosa*, is very hardy in the dry and does well with good drainage. This species gives lovely flowers in winter. The many other examples given provided a great deal of incentive to us all.

Below are some of the species Marilyn brought with her to demonstrate her art.

Acacia binervia,
Ammobium alatum Winged Daisy,
Banksia ericifolia var *macrantha*
Banksia plagiocarpa Hinchinbrook I.
Eucalyptus macrocarpa
Eucalyptus petiolaris yellow
Eucalyptus pleurocarpa
Eucalyptus preissiana
Eucalyptus pulverulenta 'Baby Blue'
Grevillea hodgei 'Honeycomb Grevillea'
Hakea 'Burrendong Beauty'
Hakea francisiana
Leptospermum brachyandrum SilverWeepingTree
Phebalium squamulosum
Ptilotis exaltatus
Regelia velutina Velvet Bush
Siegfriedia darwinioides
Spyridium parvifolium
Thryptomene denticulata
Veronica perfoliata

Next Meeting

Exploring Grasses: Alan Bedggood

Agricultural Research to Botanical Passion



Alan will introduce us to a wide variety of grasses having amassed over 670 individual species in his private herbarium.

Alan's presentation will cover the widespread nature of grasses; distinguishing grasses from rushes and sedges; and the essentials to identify a grass species and what is a weed.

All Welcome — afternoon tea

Where: **Stawell Neighbourhood house
42 Sloane Street, Stawell**

When: **Saturday afternoon 20th July 2-4pm.**

Image Kangaroo Grass in Alan's garden

The Pomonal Community Nursery

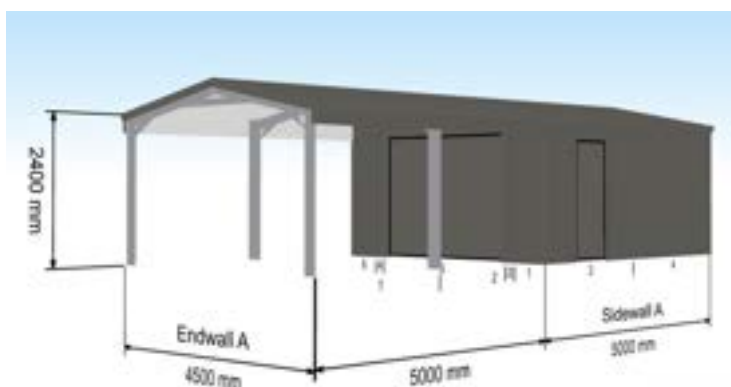
As you no doubt know, Phil Williams has made his nursery facilities in Wildflower Drive available to many, with a focus on APS, Landcare and WAMA. For many years now, the Jallukar Landcare Grasslands Group has been propagating locally-sourced grassland species, in an attempt to build up a seedbank for subsequent revegetation. APS has grown raffle prizes, propagated cuttings and members have raised their own seedlings. Plants have been raised for the WAMA endemic garden. Pomonal Primary had recently taken the first steps towards building a relationship between the children and native plants.



The February bushfire was a heavy setback for the nursery, not to mention for Phil. Just considering the melted ride-on mower and wood-splitter, the heat must have been intense. It is a remarkable joy then to see Bulbine and Chocolate lilies shooting from within the melted plastic of their tubes. It is also a joy to have Phil back and the team eager to rebuild. We have over \$17,000 in the kitty from grants and donations, and these will be acknowledged on the sign that will be unveiled at the opening of the "Pomonal Community Nursery"!

What does such a nursery need? Well the list is as long as your arm, but starts with poly tunnels, a shed and potting benches, a fenced area for hardening-off of specimens, tools, irrigation, pots and potting mix.

First of all, the old office has been removed and the site is now reasonably clear of metal and debris, though there is still more to do, especially to gather glass, nails and melted plastic. The galvanised hoops of the old hothouses are mostly intact and can be reused. We have received donated plastic hothouse covers and shade-cloth and have started work on attaching the plastic covers and cleaning the hoops of melted old material. Whilst there is no mains power, we have a tap and a fledgling irrigation system. The first goal is to grow free native plants for fire-affected gardens. To this end we have 190 packets of seed from APS Victoria and we hope to have the first small hothouse ready to accept sown seeds over the next week or so.



The shed has been ordered and is expected late October.

You'd be very welcome to pop in to see the progress or to lend a hand, which includes sowing (as you know, there are not many things more satisfying than watching seeds you have sown grow into little plants). The working bee day and time is every Wednesday between 10am and about 12pm. It has been that for years and will no doubt always be so. There is always something to do and there is always a cuppa and chat.

John King



40th Pomonal Native Flower Show

Featuring Edible Australian Plants.

21st and 22nd September 2024

Organisation of the show is progressing well.

We are very excited to have Clarence Slockee (from Gardening Australia) as our keynote speaker. He will speak at 12pm each day. Saturday will be '*How to grow bush foods in containers*', Sunday '*My top 10 favourite edible native plants*'

We also have Anthony Hooper and Julie Weatherhead from Tynong North, where their Peppermint Ridge farm is an edible native plant nursery. Julie is the author of *Australian Native Foods Harvest: a guide for the passionate cook and gardener* and will be talking at 2pm both days. The title of her talk is: *Creating a Native Pantry: growing and cooking with Australian native foods. We are most fortunate to have them attend as Julie is the current Female Agribusiness Leader of the Year 2024 (by Food and Fibre Gippsland) and is also speaking at the ANSPA conference in October.*

Hall layout: The layout for this year's show will be different as 'the relief hub' will still be in place. We have come up with some creative changes to allow for this.

We are calling out to members to assist with helping us make a great display of our feature - edible plants - commonly referred to as 'Bush Tucker' plants. As it is difficult to put these plants on display in water, we believe it will be best to have them in pots and are hoping you could lend us your potted edible plants for the show. We will have them grouped and on display with full labels. This way our visitors can experience both the aromas and visual display. Fully label it to ensure it is returned to you.

Note the earlier date this year . Please put this in your diaries as it will be great to have as many helpers as possible over the weekend and leading up to it. The show programme will be advertised soon and flyers available for distribution - watch this space.

Your flower show committee

Jocelyn, Fiona and Andrea

Grampians Plants

Grevillea dimorpha 'Grampians Flame Grevillea'

Neil Marriott

This is the second in my series of articles on our wonderful Grampians plant species for our GariWord newsletter. What better plant to choose than our group's logo, the beautiful *Grevillea dimorpha* known as the Grampians Flame Grevillea!



Described by Baron Von Mueller in 1855, the species name *dimorpha* was chosen by the Baron referring to the two leaf forms –*di* meaning two and *morpha* meaning forms, found in this species. He also described 2 varieties: the broad leaf form as *var. dimorpha*, and the narrow leaf form as *var. angustifolia*. *Angustifolia* is Latin for narrow leaf. Thus we have *Grevillea dimorpha* variety *dimorpha* and *Grevillea dimorpha* var *angustifolia*. Interestingly though, and obviously unknown to the Baron is the fact that there are intermediate leaf forms where the two varieties come together such as at Yarram Gap and Mirranatwa Gap.

Grevillea dimorpha var *dimorpha*

These scientific names have sadly been ignored by most recent botanists, however Peter Olde and I are looking at the possibility of raising *Grevillea dimorpha* var *angustifolia* to subspecies status due to its distinct appearance and its separate populations to the broad leaf forms. Most people now refer to them as either the broad leaf form or the narrow leaf form.

The broad leaf form occurs in the central Grampians area from along Stony Creek behind Halls Gap shops down to around the Jimmy's Creek-Mirranatwa Gap area. In this area it varies from a very large shrub to approximately 4m tall and wide at Halls Gap, to a distinctly tall and narrow form marketed as 'Tall Teddy' from the Teddy Bear Gap area where plants can be over 3 m tall and less than 0.5m wide, with very large broad leaves. Around Jimmy's Creek area plants can be shrubby to around 1m x 1.5m or even prostrate and 0.2m tall and 1.5m wide.



Grevillea dimorpha var *angustifolia*

All forms have extremely showy, bright red flowers that are full of nectar and a delight for our honey-eating birds. They all flower for many months of the year through the cooler seasons.

The narrow leaf form (*var angustifolia*) on the other hand only occurs in the southern parts of the Grampians, from Mt Sturgeon just out of Dunkeld and north to Yarram Gap Rd-Mirranatwa Gap areas. Here it is largely confined to the higher areas of the Mt William Range and the Serra Range, often being seen when you walk up Mt Sturgeon, The Picaninny or when you drive over Yarram Gap or Mirranatwa Gap. Unlike the broad leaf form, *var angustifolia* is only a small shrub 0.3-0.6m tall and wide. As mentioned above, around Yarram Gap can be found hybrids between the two varieties with intermediate leaves. These plants grow to around 1m x 1m.

All forms of *Grevillea dimorpha* are wonderful, hardy and extremely showy plants for the garden, thriving in a sunny to semi-shaded site in the garden so long as soils are reasonably well drained. There is a lovely bushy form of the broad leaf form that grows above Pomonal on the Bridal Trail that was introduced by Phil and Jane Williams many decades ago. This form has thrived at Phil's and has self-seeded right through his garden. It will be interesting to see if it comes back strongly after last summer's bushfire. After the recent rains I am sure it will.

A number of years ago, former Dunkeld residents, Betty and the late Brian Lacy discovered a single plant of *var angustifolia* along the track to the Picaninny with lovely yellow flowers. Fortunately they got a few cuttings and succeeded in propagating it, as when they took me back there to see it a year later it was gone, destroyed by track widening! We have beautiful plants of both colours growing together in our WAMA Endemic Garden that are thriving. *Variety angustifolia*, being notably smaller, is an ideal plant for any garden, being extremely showy and adaptable, while the broad leaf form makes an ideal large screen plant for larger gardens. *Grevillea dimorpha* 'Tall Teddy' is a spectacular tall and narrow form, ideal for beside fences or in narrow garden beds, where its showy red flowers stand out like beacons! Being endemic to the Grampians, I think this is an ideal plant that we have chosen to be our groups logo! Make sure you have several in your garden and the birds will love you for it!!

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

March Elia Pirtle "Inland Islands and and Leafy Bridges"

April Royce Raleigh "Hakeas"

May Miriam Ford "Marvellous Mint Bushes"

June Marilyn Sprague 'Growing Australian Native Flowers for Floristry'

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, SA

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 'Bushwalking in the Grampians'

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