



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

Email: grampians@apsvic.org.au



NEXT MEETING lots to hear
When? 7.30pm Tuesday 17th September
Show information! Sharpening tools with Daryl Mair!
Where? Stawell Neighbourhood House
Surnames L-Z please bring some supper to share

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Next Meeting

Flower Show

Come along. We've lots to tell you about the weekend !!!!!.

Also Daryl Mair - Sharpening Demonstration

Daryl Mair is an expert pruner and fairly new to our membership. He has offered to demonstrate sharpening secateurs etc and you are invited to learn from him at our next meeting.

Vale Alex Graham

The passing of Alex Graham is particularly sad being just shy of our 40th flower show anniversary. As one of our first members, he helped set in place a strong and vibrant group. I feel fortunate to have met Alex a few times in my short time of being a member and he was always generous with his knowledge and keen still to hear and learn more from our speakers. We will send formal condolences on behalf of our group to his family.

Flower show

I wish to formally thank Jocelyn King for her commitment to ensuring our show is filled with a wonder of Australian plant botanical joys with a focus on edibles. Our lineup of speakers is a direct result of Jocelyn's tenacity. The level of communication with external parties takes time and focused energy which she does with grace. So it is our turn now to ensure we give her the support needed over this coming week. For our new members, this is a wonderful way to get involved, meet other members and be exposed to so many wonderful plants. And please, all members able to attend and especially our special inaugural members, be available for our celebration and launch at 10am Saturday 21st in the marquee.



Print Media: The Ararat Advocate: August 23rd 2024



Facebook report: Just reposted our flyer and it received a lot of attention. Many other APS groups including APS VIC and also other like-minded groups shared it resulting in great awareness. Don't forget to follow us: Pomonal native flower show. Also look out for an article in the Stawell Times!

Why Grow Australian plants? Australian plants provide food and shelter for our native fauna. You can choose plants to attract animals such as birds and butterflies. From 'Growing Australian' – a resource for growing a home garden in Victoria. Written by APSVic2009

Fiona Lucas - APS Grampians President Ph: 0418366362 / fionarlucas@gmail.com

40th Pomonal Native Flower Show

Pomonal Native Flower Show – 40th Anniversary 21st and 22nd September 2024

Not long to go!!!

Clarence Slockee, from **ABC's Gardening Australia** is presenting on both days at 12pm. He will demonstrate how to grow **Bush foods in containers** and speak about **his top 10 edible plants**. We also have ABC Gardening Australia filming of show preparation and the Saturday.

The event will be formally opened by Clarence along with recognising the 40 year celebration **at 10:00 am on the Saturday in the marquee. Members present at 10am will be terrific.**

Neil Marriott will talk at 10:30am both days on **'WAMA and plants endemic to the Grampians'** with a focus on the edible plants that are growing there.

At 2pm each day **Julie Weatherhead** from **Peppermint Ridge farm** in Tynong north who along with Anthony Hooper have been growing and cultivating a wide range of Australian native bush food and botanical plants for over twenty five years. She is selling her book **'Australian Native Food Harvest'** which references nutritional analysis of the different plants, gives ideas on planting a native food garden and provides excellent easy recipes to try at home. Peppermint Ridge will have a stall set up for the duration of the weekend, to sell the book, plants and food items made from their farm's bush foods.

Pomonal primary school will have an amazing display of their work on **'The recovery of the local bush after the bushfire'**

We will also have a historical display of photos taken over the last 40 years of the show

We are hoping to have most flowers picked on Thursday afternoon ready for a 10am start on Friday to bring them in, place them in vases and put them out on the tables with their labels. Everyone who is free on Friday is most welcome to help out as this takes quite a while.

We will put the marquee up either Wednesday afternoon or Thursday morning but will decide this at the next meeting on the 17th Sept when we know what the weather is going to be.

Anyone who has a bush foods plant in a pot and is willing to lend it for the weekend please bring it to this coming meeting so we can label it and have it ready as we set up. It will be cared for and returned to you after the show.

If you have spare native flowers in your garden please bring them in on the Friday 20th as Fiona's flower stall will need lots.

Hope you can all make it to the meeting on the 17th where we will be going over last minute details

See you soon, Jocelyn - for The flower show committee

Last Meeting

Tuesday 20th August **Helen Lovell Neutrog** at Pomonal Hall



Dig that crazy car! Members got together for an excellent meal at the Spirit of Punjab before our meeting. (Last minute change because the Halls Gap Hotel, like Barneys, is closed on Tuesdays). Helen Lovell gave an amazing presentation about the composting and laboratory processes at the Neutrog facility. We were very stimulated and invited to organise an excursion to visit their premises. Neutrog is also a WAMA sponsor, and Helen was an informative guest attending the next day for the WAMA working bee where team WAMA planted gifts from Cranbourne Botanic Garden.

Flower Table

Members are always invited to bring flowers to show off or to get help with identification or garden problems.

Pomonal Community Nursery



We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of Phil & Lindsey Williams, who want the community nursery to be sited at 44 Wildflower Dr in perpetuity!

The site is looking pretty clean now, the small poly-tunnel is operational and we're almost ready to cover the large hot house. 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

Currency Creek

APS Grampians South Australia Trip Sept 2024

Neil Marriott

Following discussions between John King, Marie Goods and Dave and Linda Handscombe after Dean Nicolle's wonderful weekend at our last year's flower show, it was agreed to organise a combined trip with the Wimmera APS Group, Warrnambool APS Group and the Grampians APS Group. 2 members from Hamilton also joined in. The central feature of the weekend was to be the visit to Dean Nicolle's Currency Creek Arboretum on the Sunday morning, with other gardens and bushland areas for the Saturday and Monday.

Most members arrived on the Friday night and Anthea Nicholls, John and Jocelyn King and I caught up with fellow members Maryanne Jess and friend Deb at the local Middleton Tavern for a lovely dinner.



"Sea Balls" on Middleton Beach

Before dinner we went for a walk along the Middleton beach and were amazed to see how much damage had been done by



Lovely Coastal Silver Bushes *Leucophyta brownii*

the violent storms the week before. But even more amazing were the tens of thousands of strange furry balls strewn all along the beach. An investigation of these with Mr Google revealed that they are known as Sea Balls! They are made up of tightly packed fibrous marine material, normally the remains of sea-grass stems!! Amazing!!

The next morning we met at the Baghurst garden high up in the hills above Middleton Beach where Judy and Andrew Baghurst have developed a most beautiful garden, full of native treasures and with the most wonderful views over the coastline. We were all amazed to see how *Eremophila biserrata* had been most successfully used as a green mulch throughout many of the gardens. The sculptured plants, kept low by the prevailing winds, were just beautiful.



Eremophila biserrata as a green living mulch

After the Baghurst Garden we travelled on to the Lower Inman Valley where we visited Pat and Gerald Uphills'



Pink Gums *Eucalyptus fasciculosa*



Beautiful plants of *Thomasia* and *Xerochrysum*

beautiful garden set amongst the most delightful local gum trees you could ever get!! There was a good range of species, with Pink Gum *Eucalyptus fasciculosa* being slightly more dominant than the Yellow Gum *Eucalyptus leucoxylon*. We were slightly amused that the South Australians call our Yellow Gum the Blue Gum!! Not sure what was blue about them, but doesn't it show how stupid common names can be!!



Next on the agenda was a visit to the wonderful public garden Nangawooka in the Hindmarsh

Valley. Here we were guided around the extensive native gardens, all maintained by local volunteers.

There were many plants in flower, but one that caught all our attention was the superb large *Doryanthes palmeri* Spear Lily from the Border Ranges on the NSW-Qld border.



Doryanthes palmeri Spear Lily

The final destination for the day was to the lovely remnant area of local Goolwa bushland where local young naturalist Malcolm Worthing showed us around an area that would have become yet more houses and asphalt if not for the local council buying it and preserving it!!



Butterfly Spyridium *Spyridium coactilifolium*



Xanthorrhoea semiplana

The area contains many rare and endangered local plant species as well as lots of wildlife. A feature was spectacular local grasstrees *Xanthorrhoea semiplana*, a very rare plant in the western Grampians, but common here. We also saw the beautiful, but rare Butterfly Spyridium *Spyridium coactilifolium* which would make a most beautiful garden plant.



Dean with one of the excellent signs for the major trees in the arboretum

The following morning we all met at Currency Creek Arboretum and were greeted by Dean Nicolle and his lovely partner Annett. We were taken on a wonderful and most educational tour of just some of the highlights of the arboretum – the world's largest living collection of Eucalypts! Dean plants a large block of species every year, with three plants for every species being planted. The first trees went in in 1992 and planting continues to this day, with much scientific research being carried out with the developing trees.



Dean explaining the planting techniques for the arboretum.

After a lovely lunch in the arboretum, farewells were made and our group headed off back to Victoria following an absolutely wonderful weekend. A very big thanks to John and Dave who did most of the organising for the weekend.

Member Matters

Thank you everyone for renewing before the end of September.

We have 50 memberships: 22 households (inc. 2 Life Members) and 28 Individuals (inc 2 Life Members)

If you do not subscribe to the *Australian Plants* journal, you should have received your copy of *Growing Australian* (AP was late off the press & delayed postage).

If you'd like a postage-free book from the booklist, let me know soon, and we'll ask Bill & Sue to pack it with the books for the show. A big thank you to our Melbourne members, Graham & Velda Ellis, who have agreed to bring the books up on the Friday before the show.

If you see someone at the show wearing a Grampians Group name badge whom you don't recognise, please introduce yourself & make them welcome. There are eight who have joined over the past year.

Best wishes, John King

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 Alan Bedggood Discovering 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, Daryl Mair 'Tools - Sharp is Best'

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, Monica Coleman 'Travels in the Top End'

December Tue 17th Christmas breakup 5.30pm : 693 Panrock Reservoir Rd Black Range via Stawell

Also APS Victoria (APSV) Committee of Management quarterly meetings - all members welcome:

March quarterly meeting

May quarterly meeting at Mt Martha Community House 9.30am

July quarterly weekend hosted by APS Bendigo

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

32nd ANPSA National Biennial Conference hosted by APS Victoria

30th September to 4th October at The Round, Nunawading. "Gardens for Life"

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 GariWords,
Your pictures, experiences and research are welcome; send to
grampiansnewsletter@apsvic.org.au

Thank you to Fiona, John and Neil who contributed to this edition



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

APS Vic Grampians 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