




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

Email: grampians@apsvic.org.au



NEXT MEETING

7.30pm this Tuesday 15th October

Ben Gunn - Archaeology of Gariwerd-the Grampians
Members' social dinner at Spirit of Punjab 5.30pm



And then on to the Pomonal Hall

Surnames A-K please bring some supper to share

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Next Meeting

Guest speaker
Ben Gunn
local identity, national archaeologist

“Archaeology of Gariwerd -the Grampians”
Pomonal Hall
Tuesday 15th Oct 7.30pm.
Dinner beforehand at
Spirit of Punjab Halls Gap
5.30pm

From the President



October 2024

It was an honour to be able to celebrate the 40th Flower Show with our inaugural members (Phil Williams, Neil Marriott, Sharon Hateley, Joan Pitaro) with our own members and a marquee filled with enthusiastic visitors including A-grade star Millie Ross from the ABC's Gardening Australia programme and our guest speaker,

Clarence Slockee, delightful personality on the ABC and attending under his own banner. Clarence opened the day with an acknowledgment to Country. This was followed by the cutting of our two birthday cakes- both in theme with 'our native edible plants'. So the scene was set for a wonderful two day celebration and it didn't disappoint.

The crowds came from near and far, including media, council dignitaries and Gardening Australia onsite filming for an episode that will feature leading up to next year's event. All speakers had a 'full house' plus standing room. Clarence had the audience up on their feet singing, Neil's presentations continue to have participants amazed at his knowledge and Julie from Peppermint Ridge introduced us to the joys of growing and cooking with native edible plants.



Thankyou Jocelyn King - you did an amazing job and should be very proud of your achievement. It

is an all consuming role which takes months of planning. Thankyou also Andrea Shelley who supported Jocelyn and kept coming up with creative ideas.

Most importantly thankyou and well done to you all.

If our role as members of APS is to inspire and educate others on the joy and beauty and environmental benefits conserving Australian plants then we succeed.

I do believe Jocelyn is already planning for next year which is wonderful.

Thankyou again everyone.

Fiona

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

Announcements

Please note:

Our AGM will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday the 19th November at Stawell Neighbourhood House. All positions will be declared vacant.

Please consider nominating to join the committee and help keep our group ticking over.

Send your nominations to grampians@apsvic.org.au

40th Pomonal Native Flower Show

From Jocelyn

Wrap up of the 40th Pomonal Native Flower Show

21st and 22nd September 2024 - What a weekend it proved to be!

The high winds on Friday evening had everyone sleepless..Would the extra long tent pegs prevent a repeat of last year's disaster?

They did! And some drizzle both days hardly mattered:

We had over 1050 people attend.

Flower numbers were slightly down due to burnt gardens and the dry Autumn/Winter. We also had a smaller space to work with due to the Relief Hub but still we pulled off a very enjoyable 40th show. Saturday morning started with acknowledgement of Country by our celebrity guest Clarence Slockee. With the cutting of the cakes in the marquee we celebrated the 40th milestone. Most of the original members were there – Neil Marriott, Phil Williams, Sharyn Hateley and Joan Pitaro.

All talks in the marquee both days were well attended. Neil Marriott started both days with his talk on 'WAMA and the Grampians endemic plants'

Clarence Slockee from Gardening Australia proved a big hit with his larger than life personality and his talks were so well attended both days that the sides had to be removed on the marquee to allow everyone to get in!

We knew Millie and the Gardening Australia team were coming up at some point to film in the Grampians but when they said they were



coming the week of the show we knew this would add quite a lot to the already busy week.

They ended up filming for a day and a half at the Marriotts', a day at Vaughans' Native Nursery and then an afternoon with Phil Williams at The Pomonal Community Nursery.

I would like to thank Donna and Trevor who thought we were only going to be picking for the show in their garden but when the producer of the GA programme visited their garden she



wanted to include it in the story of how the show comes together. So at 7:30am on the Friday morning the crew turned up to film Donna, Trevor and some of us picking the flowers. Once at the hall the crew also filmed the flowers arriving and being sorted out for specimen jars or for Fiona's arrangements followed up by a short segment on the Saturday when everything was ready and people started arriving. So a few weeks before the show next year we might be on TV!!!

The feature of 'Edible Native Australian plants' turned out to be a good one. Julie Weatherhead (who recently won Agribusiness woman of the year award in Gippsland) and Anthony Hooper came all the way from Tynong North where they run Peppermint ridge farm and have been testing, growing and harvesting their plants for the last 25 years. Her talk was extremely informative, both the medicinal uses and the culinary uses, and passing round the various plants to taste and smell really brought them to life. Many of us came away inspired to create our own little native edible plant section in our gardens and to try out some of the recipes and spices.

(So popular was their segment that as soon as the show finished on the Saturday they drove the 8 hour round trip home for more supplies of books and plants and spices for the Sunday.)

I would like to thank everyone who put so much in to make it such a great Show.

All those able members who helped set up, particularly the mammoth job of putting up the marquee, not forgetting the men's shed boys who also helped. And to John Matthews for emptying the green bins so they were ready for the show, for helping in the hall and kitchen to ensure things ran smoothly both days.

Neil and Wendy for labelling and supplying so many beautiful specimens and Neil for your last minute id – ing. To Wendy who helped to run the book stall and Graham & Velda for taxiing the books!

To Fiona for handling all the advertising and Facebook side of things to get the show out there and dealing with the Gardening Australia producer to work out the week of filming.

To Erin Mackley's expertise in hanging bunting and being an extra on the film set.

To Neil Macumber for putting the signs out early on the roads, to managing the TV, mic etc in the marquee as well as a lot of other stuff. Also to Wayne on the day and taking them down.

To John K for setting up the iPads and Squares to enable smooth payment on the book stall and entry table and managing the money to reconcile everything after the show.

To Darryl and Fiona for their gorgeous arrangements everywhere in the marquee and around the hall and running such a successful flower stall.

The bunting makers, - Jodie, Andrea, Alison, Anthea To Andrea for her amazing help leading up to the show to get it all ready.

To Frank for your amazing effort in transporting all your precious edible native plants to the show and letting us display them.

To Kim and Dave for bringing in Margaret's amazing orchid. What a specimen!

To all of you who picked flowers and brought them in and helped put them in vases, label them and put them out.

To everyone who did a roster behind the entry table, the book stall or the raffle table and to all those who helped pack up.

To Alison for running the market stalls and coordinating all that side of things which adds so much to the show. And the stall holders who add to the festival atmosphere.

To this amazing community of members and visitors and the schoolchildren who love our native plants and the catering staff both days.

See you next year!

Time to relax:



Last Meeting

Tuesday 17th September **Daryl Mair** 'Tools - Sharp is Best' at Stawell Neighbourhood House



We are grateful to Daryl Mair for offering to cover a subject important to us all. He is an expert pruner and his years of experience have perfected his methods and technique. Daryl demonstrated the way to sharpen hollow-ground tools. Everyone was amazed to watch Fiona's secateurs magically taken apart so that the blade could be smoothed on the flat unsharpened side. This completely renovated the cutting edge so when he had put it back together and screws adjusted they were like new. Fiona was the lucky one.

When Daryl is pruning, he carries a sharpening kit around from tree to tree in a bucket. Different sizes of pruners, diamond stone and importantly a spray gun of metho to sterilise all blades between trees.

September Flower Table

Members are always invited to bring flowers to show off or to get help with identification or garden problems. Neil Macumber showed off his beautiful *Eucalyptus gillii*, *Thomasia purpurea* and *Acacia aphylla*.

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, AGM & Monica Coleman ' My 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:

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

32nd ANPSA National Biennial Conference hosted by APS Victoria

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

2026 - 33rd ANPSA National 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 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