

# Golden

Newsletter of the Australian Plants Society  
Latrobe Valley Group Inc.  
No. A0045337C

Issue No. 331 – June 2024

*Grevillea chrysophaea* – Golden Grevillea

## This Month

Event Visit to the Sale Common.  
Location Meeting at Cox's Bridge, Sale.  
Date Saturday June 15  
Time 10:30AM

This month it's a visit to the wetlands at Sale Common, starting at Cox's Bridge. Follow the Princes Highway into sale until you meet the South Gippsland Highway, then turn right onto the South Gippsland Highway. 2 to 3 kilometres along is the Cox's Bridge carpark, which is closed, however there is parking along the roadsides nearby. Bring along a picnic lunch or you can buy something in Sale. If you have trouble with directions, contact Mike.

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## Leader's Report

By Jan Workman

**M**other's Day has come and gone for another year. The family I spent Mother's Day with 'brought the bush into the back yard'!

Young Tommy had learnt how to make damper and cook it over an open fire at kindergarten the previous week.

A great time was anticipated.

The campfire pit was erected and set alight in the driveway at Nana's house.

All the families had arrived with 6 grandchildren eager and helpful. The eldest aged 12 and the youngest asleep in the arms of an aunty.

The 2 mums and nana had been pampered earlier in the day with brekky in bed and presents handed out.

Now back to work, making damper with the kids and rolling it around the end of long sticks to cook over the open fire. How yummy it was with jam or butter and vegemite.

Sweets were (of course) marshmallows browned; (or burnt in a lot of cases) over the fire as well and was a fitting end to a wonderful Mother's Day.



## 2024 Latrobe Valley Group Events Calendar

Month	Day	Date	Activity	Time
June	Sat	15	Visit to Sale Common meeting at Cox's Bridge.	10:30 AM
July				
August			Annual General Meeting	

**M**y early planting has paid off this autumn. The Paper Daisies have mostly doubled or tripled in size and many of the other small herbaceous plants like *Brachyscombes* and *Chrysocephalums* have put on substantial new growth. I have had to keep a careful eye on them regarding water, though. There have been a few weeks with very little rain, so I have had to watch the soil moisture and give some supplementary water as required.

The remaining stump of the large Peppermint Gum (*Eucalyptus radiata*) has at last been removed. Although there was a lot of rot in it, the four-metre high by one-metre-thick trunk has been cut down for firewood and the stump ground out. I have replaced it with a home-grown seedling of Red Ironbark (*E.sideroxylon*). I had collected the seed from a Red Ironbark that has been growing at the front of the house for at least 20 years. Unfortunately, it requires regular pruning in that position to stop it shading the house from the winter sun. In its new position, it will make a handsome feature tree with its rough, dark, furrowed bark, blueish green leaves, and hopefully, masses of pink flowers like its parent. This new location is to the west of the house and, once established, should provide shade over the Boronia garden again. I finished the planting around the new seedling with about 40 new plants of Kidney Weed (*Dichondra repens*). This is a great little groundcover on its own if the herbivores will leave it alone, otherwise it tends to blend in amongst the grass and provide a bit more protection to the soil. Of course, I have had to protect all this from those same herbivores, at least for this coming year.



About a year ago I used the last of the firewood stack that was above the path to my shed. I have added organic material and some decent soil to this area and now it is finally planted out. I sometimes wonder at my sanity: do I really need to expand the garden area? At least it is not as steep as most of the rest of the garden.

One of the biggest problems I have is protecting plants from the wildlife. For the most part, I am prepared to provide protection until the plants get established and out of reach of the eaters. Some things, however, never get tall enough to achieve this so mostly I have stopped trying to grow those things. *Chrysocephalum*



*apiculatum* York Peninsula form (Yellow Buttons) is one such plant. It is not long living (in my garden, only three or four years at best), it gets savaged by rabbits and wallabies and only survived in a steep and inaccessible part of the garden. In my recent planting spree, I found another pot of it on my plant stand. After wandering aimlessly around the garden, I finally found a naturally protected place amongst the branches of a low-growing Kunzea. I had pruned the deadwood from the branches back to the main stems in the hope that they might sprout new growth again, but it just didn't happen. Never mind, the branch cage seems to be providing protection for the Yellow Buttons so far.

**Species:** *Olearia phlogopappa*.

**Family:** Asteraceae.

**Derivation:**

*Olearia*: Named after Adam Olschlager (latinised to Olearins or Olearius), a 17<sup>th</sup>-century German botanist. Alternatively, could be from the Latin *olea*, the olive tree. Seems the original type species of *Olearia* had leaves resembling those of the olive.



*phlogopappa*: From the Greek *phlogos*, from which the genus name *Phlox* is derived and which means flame or blaze, and *pappos*, which is a group of appendages, often hairs or scales, attached above the ovary in members of the daisy family. Thus, it all means 'with a Phlox-like (flame-coloured) pappus'.

**Common Name:** Dusty Daisy-bush.

**Distribution:** Mainly in the eastern ranges of Victoria, north to the ACT and south to Tasmania, with outliers in the Grampians, the Otways and Wilsons Promontory.

**Description:** A variable shrub from 0.5 to 3m tall and broad, with alternate, elliptic to obovate leaves up to 8cm long and 1cm wide. The most common form has grey-green leaves with sunken veins above and creamy-white below and margins may be entire or bluntly toothed, with the apex pointed or rounded. Flowers occur in spring and summer, depending on altitude, with clustered flowerheads up to 2.5cm across. Disc florets are yellow and ray florets are usually white in wild plants (at least locally), but can be pink, mauve, purple or blue. There are many selections with different shades in cultivation.

**Opinion:** My plant used to have purple flowers! But back in 2021, I noticed that the plant had moved a few centimetres closer to the path and the original stem had turned a crispy brown. I assumed that the new growth was a sucker, that is a new stem arising from the same root system, but obviously I was way off the mark, and it was a seedling. Presumably the seed came from my original, purple-flowered plant, but it seems the other parent was probably a boring, white-flowered specimen, quite possibly pollen brought in from the nearby Boolarra Bush Reserve by some unscrupulous insect. Lots of presumptions, probabilities and possibilities going on here! Bit of a shame really, in my opinion the purple flowers are much more aesthetically pleasing than white and now the plant is too close to the path and wants to make itself acquainted every time somebody wanders past.

I have tried propagation from cuttings a few times in the past, without much success, only about a 20% strike rate (10 plants from 52 cuttings), with the cuttings not surviving very long after potting up. So now I don't have a purple (or mauve if you insist) flowering daisy-bush anymore; if you have one and can spare some material, I wouldn't mind giving it another crack. Obviously can't trust the seeds! It's almost enough to prod one into waxing lyrical....

My oh my, what a terrible plight...  
My daisy-bush has turned white...  
Seemingly overnight...  
It must have got an awful fright  
All things considered, it's just not right....

Forgive me, a poet I am not!

**Sources:** Elliot & Jones - Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants, Volume 7.  
Costermans - Native Trees and Shrubs of SE Australia.  
Corrick & Fuhrer - Wildflowers of Victoria.  
Sharr - WA Plant Names and their Meanings.



**Y**es, it is that time of year again. Most of the Group have memberships that will expire on June 30, 2024, and will require renewal if they wish to continue. The members who **don't** have to renew this year are: Simpsons (household), Hetheringtons (household), Byers (single), Hooper/Weatherhead/Peppermint Ridge Farm (organisation) and Cook (single). For those wishing to renew, please use the online renewal system, instructions below. If you do not intend to renew, please let me know, mainly so that I can stop nagging you.

### **Step-by-step guide to the new membership renewal process:**

1. Go to [www.apsvic.org.au/login](http://www.apsvic.org.au/login) to start the renewal process.
2. Type in your email address where indicated in the first box of the screen see. Ensure that the email address you use is the one recorded by APS Victoria.
3. Type your membership number in the box labelled Password - This 4 digit number is on the envelope in which your 'Growing Australian' magazine arrives.
4. Click the box labelled "I am not a robot".
5. Click on the "login" button - A new page will open with the first sentence reading: "Welcome ..... (your name)".
6. Select your APS Vic Membership option.
7. Check your membership details are correct - amend if not.
8. Under payment options select EITHER credit card OR pay by bank transfer:
  - If paying by credit card, enter your card details and proceed.
  - If paying by bank transfer click on the box labelled 'Contribute'. An invoice will be sent immediately to your email address. It will contain the APS Victoria bank details to which payment is to be made.
9. Logout by closing the webpage - There is no logout button.

Good luck! Any difficulties, please don't hesitate to contact me for assistance. As a last resort, I can process your renewal for you, if necessary, but please have a go at using the online renewal system initially.

Cheers,  
Mike



Red Ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxyon*) bark – Jackson garden



The Australian Plants Society Victoria (APS Vic) hosts the ANPSA 2024 Conference this year. Themed **Gardens for Life** the Conference is being held in The Round, Nunawading from 30<sup>th</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

The Australian Native Plants Society (Australia) or ANPSA, is the overarching body for all the Australian plant societies within Australia and holds a conference on Australian flora, shared around the states, every two years. This year is Victoria's turn.

These conferences are a great way to network with like-minded native plant enthusiasts from all over Australia, to learn more about our amazingly diverse flora and to become more aware of what we have around us in Victoria that we can celebrate, cultivate and protect.

You are invited to come to the Conference, for one day or for the full five days. In addition, there are Pre and Post conference tours available to the Grampians, Great Ocean Road and Wilsons Promontory.

We have over 25 speakers covering topics that include landscaping for conservation, restoration and saving rarity, native plants as food and medicine, programmed for Monday, Wednesday and Friday. There is a choice of six-day excursions to visit local highlights on Tuesday and Thursday.

Dr Megan Hirst is our Keynote Speaker on the Monday speaking on Raising Rarity.

For more details or to register your interest, please visit our website <https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/>.

Members of the public are invited to attend the AJ Swaby Address by Phillip Johnson, which is being held at 3.30 pm on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, at the Round, and is a free event. Phillip's topic is "Connected through Nature" and he will cover the evolution of his work focusing on the importance of working with nature and look at the various design solutions that his team have created to help address the world's extreme weather conditions by mimicking natural environmental systems. Phillip is a Landscape Designer and 2013 Gold and Best in Show winner at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London. He says: "*By healing our environment, we heal ourselves at the same time*". Please register your attendance to this free lecture by emailing [anpsa2024@gmail.com](mailto:anpsa2024@gmail.com)

For further information call Nicky Zanen on 0401 975 191 or Miriam Ford on 0409 600 644.



## Coming events of interest

**Note: Please check the Vic APS website for cancellations before attending.,**

**27 and 28 July 2024** – APS Bendigo host COM and full weekend of activities.

**5 September 2024** – Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar - Goroke. Further details to follow.

**7 September 2024** – APS Cardinia Regional Annual Plant Sale, Akoonah Park, Berwick from 8 am to 4 pm.

**7 September 2024** – APS Mitchell Expo and Plant Sale, Wallan Multipurpose Centre, Bentinck Street, Wallan.

**14 & 15 September 2024** APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo. Eltham Community and Reception Centre, 801 Main Rd, Eltham. 10am - 3pm

**21 & 22 September 2024** – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

**21 & 22 September 2024** – Angair Wildflower Show & Art Show, Anglesea Memorial Hall, McMillan Street, Anglesea. 10 am to 4 pm. Wildflower display, indigenous plant sales, art show and painting sales.

**28 & 29 September 2024** – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory Christian College, Kairn Road, Strathdale, Bendigo. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. \$5 entry, children free. Specialist native plant nurseries, books, garden accessories and more.

**30 September to 4 October, 2024** – ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference in Melbourne hosted by APS Victoria. Visit <https://www.anpsa2024conference.com/>.

**2 October 2024** - AJ Swaby Address by Phillip Johnson - 3:30PM. "Connected Through Nature". As part of the ANPSA 2024 Biennial Conference, this session is open to the public, free of charge, at The Round, Nunawading. Phillip Johnson is a Landscape Designer and 2013 Gold and Best in Show winner at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in London. *"By healing our environment, we heal ourselves at the same time"*.

**5 October 2024** – Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase. Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca.

**12 & 13 October 2024** - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: [rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

**19th October, 2024** – APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show, Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Gillies Street, Ballarat. (Next to the Conservatory). 10am to 4pm. Native Plants for Sale.

**November 2024** – APS Wangaratta host APS Victoria Committee of Management meeting and AGM. Details to follow.

**24 to 30 March 2025** – Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS), Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building. Website: <https://melbflowershow.com.au>.

**16 to 24 August 2025** - A focus on banksias - title to be advised. Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne. Includes plant sales, plant walks, exhibitions and displays in the auditorium. ►



**August 2025 - 15<sup>th</sup> FJC Rogers Seminar 2025**, On Epacridaceae. Date to be confirmed. Hosted by APS Mornington Peninsula in the Mornington Secondary College.

**2026 ANPSA 2026 Biennial Conference**, planned to be held in Alice Springs.

## Jill's Snippet – World Bee Day

By Jill Fidler

It was World Bee Day on the 20th of May. For Australian Beekeepers it was a sobering one. In September last year, The National Management Group made the decision that Varroa mite eradication was no longer achievable and to shift the response focus to supporting beekeepers in learning how to manage the pest. Australia was previously the only country in the world free of Varroa. Currently, NSW is the only state affected.

Fortunately, the 1700 species of Australian Native Bees are largely unaffected by the mite. Although these bees do not produce honey, they are important pollinators of our native plants, joined by beetles, wasps, butterflies and moths. With the emergency in the introduced bee population, native bees could make a contribution in this area, and there is ongoing research on the subject. For members who joined us this month to enjoy Michaels' presentation on Trigger Plants, we were shown how these plants interact with pollinators. Along with the world population of insects, however, bees are in decline, not just in numbers but in diversity, affected particularly by pesticides and loss of habitat. Thus, there is major concern, not just for pollination but also pest control. The decline has been 45% in the last 40 years. With the large number of organisations such as ours, we'll keep our combined fingers crossed.

*[As a recent entry to beekeeping (2 ½ years), I too, was extremely disappointed when our authorities could (or would) not stop Varroa mite entering the country, and then rapidly spreading from Newcastle to the Victorian border. Currently, we still do not have it in Victoria, but I can't help but think it is only a matter of time. One upside of the Varroa mite could be the elimination of feral bee hives in our bushland, returning more pollen and nectar resources to our native insects, birds, and animals. Editor.]*



Rainfall for 2023 (in mm)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	21	42	101	112	114	102	41	66	66	177	80	157	1078
Brian	Drouin (east)	22	44	110	93	118	101	38	70	68	184	83	136	1067
Warren	Yarragon	49	35	80	69	119	138	36	71	78	184	74	85	1018
Wayne	Tanjil South	25	43	100	77	131	126	55	74	59	195	106	136	1127
Peter	Mirboo North	35	57	113	96	132	94	32	59	57	205	110	86	1076
Judy	Moe South	26	33	80	66	126	101	86	83	78	193	90	124	1086
Mike	Boolarra	20	43	114	61	113	101	44	62	55	182	60	92	946
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	24	36	94	65	122	91	26	51	58	200	94	105	964

Rainfall for 2024 (in mm)

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Diane	Drouin (west)	135	21	13	172									341
Brian	Drouin (east)	121	28	14	173									336
Warren	Yarragon	97	16	15	153									280
Wayne	Tanjil South	137	25	38	169									369
Peter	Mirboo North													0
Judy	Moe South	100	6	17										123
Mike	Boolarra	89	12	11	137									248
Mary	Jeeralang Junction	71	15	14	130									230

<https://apsvic.org.au/aps-latrobe-valley/>

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Golden Grevillea  
*Grevillea chrysophaea*

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Title page photo: *Grevillea chrysophaea* at Holey Plains State Park by Mike Beamish