

2.

MARCH MEETING **JAWBONE MARINE SANCTUARY**

Speaker: Dr Sandy Webb



A trained zoologist and scuba diver, Sandy nevertheless sees plants, not fish, when she dives.

She discovered the area not long after moving to Melbourne in 2008 and has been a long time member of the Care Group.

Named after its shape, the area really has only existed for about 800 years. Before that, the Bay was closed and the Yarra ran through a marshy plain. The Wathaurong and Boonwurrung peoples shared the area and have a Dreamtime story about very big waves, which may be describing when the Bay opened to the ocean.

About 300m wide, the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary, which protects the Jawbone peninsula and surrounding coastline, was proclaimed in 2002. It was once a rifle range so has suffered little European interference. The Jawbone Fauna and Flora Reserve protects inland of the shore.

There are several different habitats within the Sanctuary:

Wet Saltmarsh: Here is found the Beaded glasswort and the Austral Seablite, *Suaeda australis*, as well as the shrubby glasswort and Seaberry saltbush, *Chenopodium candolleianum*.

Mangroves: The white mangrove, *Avicennia marina*, also known as the grey mangrove, grows much further south than other mangroves. Here it grows on the southern and eastern edge of "New Basalt" found at Williamstown, but not across the Bay at Rickett's Point.

Animals visiting this area include sea birds, black swans, Pacific gulls (known to pick up sea urchins and smash them on the rocks), hundreds of soldier crabs, and tube worms which form white encrustations on the basalt rocks.

Intertidal seagrass: *Zostera muellerii* found on sandy flats and serving as feeding grounds for wading birds and aquatic animals.

Subtidal seagrass: *Zostera nigricaulis* occurs in tidal pools and deeper, not exposed waters. It has black wiry stems and bright green leaves. Pipefish, of which Sandy knows three different types, shelter and mimic the seagrass. Lion's mane jellyfish are found here and the seagrass is a known nursery for baby fish.

Bare soft sediments: Here we find toadfish and rays which lie on the sand and await their prey. Ripple marks in the sand catch small bits of life which are fed on by worms.

Rocky Reef: Sandy is licensed to collect small amounts of the algae which are found on the reef.

There are three types: green, red and brown .

Green: Sandy has recorded 12 species, including 3 sea lettuce. We saw slides of *Caulerpa remotifolia* and *Caulerpa sedoides* or sea grapes.

There is also a weedy introduced green alga here.

Brown: 16 recorded including a weedy Japanese one.

Red: 20 recorded including coralline algae. The red algae are frequently beautiful small epiphytes growing on larger brown algae.

We were later able to browse some dried, mounted museum specimens that Sandy had brought in with her.

Some of her favourite critters seen amongst the various algae were:

1. Pebble crab – small but ferocious, right (from Melbourne Museum website)
2. Sea stars – some small, some large.
3. 6 – 7 species of ray – including fiddler rays. Some are small, some up to 1.5 or 2m span. Some have no sting.





3.

4. Squid, especially in the seagrass

5. Nudibranchs (sea slugs) Sandy's group do a sea slug survey annually.

There is also **wreck** material - some ships were scuttled here and their remnants survive still.

Threats caused by Human activities

1. Littering
2. Tramping
3. Oil spills (the Sanctuary is close to the refinery)
4. Poor water quality
5. Poaching, especially of abalone
6. Huge amount of plastics
7. Release of crabs bought at markets

Is it any wonder that the seagrass is looking a bit yellow? though Sandy is not sure why.

Pests:

1. From shipping, the highly invasive Northern Pacific sea star, *Asterias amurensis* Even pieces broken off these stars can regenerate. There has recently been a cull of these and there is none present just now.
2. Japanese kelp *Undaria pinnatifida*. This is a more successful species than the native kelp. It too is in reduced numbers at present.
3. Native purple sea urchin, *Heliocidaris erythrogamma*, is the most troubling of the pests. It is currently in huge numbers and strips algae from the rocks. Sandy's group is waiting for permission to cull.

Why is the Sanctuary Important?

- It is probably too small to contribute much to the conservation of endangered species or even to produce many fish for the fishers of Port Phillip Bay.
- The seagrasses and mangroves protect the coastal fringe against storms and erosion, allowing the coast to stabilise.
- The mangroves, saltmarshes and seagrass make for a blue carbon powerhouse, whereby they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at 30 – 50 times greater rate than a rain forest.
- It is a place for scientific and amateur investigation and education for learning about the marine environment. School groups regularly visit.

For more information, search Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group at:

Jawbone.org.au

SPECIMEN TABLE MARCH MEETING

Robert had a superb flower cone of *Banksia media* to show. From the south coast of WA, it grows well in Melbourne, is flowering for the second time and has proved very hardy for him. It comes from a similar area to *B. praemorsa* though his plant hasn't flowered yet after about four years.



Robert also provided pieces of *Crowea saligna*. His bush is 1m x 1m and is the large flowered form, The pink colour varies a lot in this species, His other specimen of *Scaevola aemula*, possibly 'Blue Fancy', is growing in a hanging basket so he needs to keep up the watering.

4.

Marj's *Rhododendron lochiaie* is thriving in a pot facing east. The roots are fairly shallow but surprisingly tolerant of drying out. A small piece of *Eremophila hygrophana* showed off the silvery leaves and purple flowers very well. The Illawarra flame tree, *Brachychiton acerifolius*, right, has brilliant red flowers which show very well against the large glossy green palmate leaves. Marj's tree is in full leaf and flower at the bottom but only has a few flowers at the top. It flowers every year but very variably, depending on the weather.



Mandy bought in two wattles – *Acacia harveyi* which is now coming into flower, creates lots of seedlings and needs to be kept pruned as it can grow quite tall, and *A. jibberdingensis* from the central wheatbelt of WA. It has cylindrical flowers and also needs to be kept pruned. *Calytrix fraseri* is covered with a mass of bright pink flowers. Mandy's pot of it fell over but the plant kept growing horizontally. Scale can be a problem but otherwise it is a plant of very good value.



Two of her plants in pots attracted quite a bit of attention – *Calostemma purpureum* (garland lily, right)



is a bulb which sends up flowering stems with a head of small pink or yellow flowers. Several would be needed to create a mass effect. The other pot contained *Austromyrtus dulcis* or midgen berry (left). The edible, speckled purplish berries were a favourite of our first people. The bush grows to about 30 – 60cm high and 1 – 2m wide and naturally occurs through coastal northern NSW and up to Fraser Island. It could be pruned to make a small hedge.

John brought in three WA thryptomenes:

T. saxicola "Supernova" which is a vigorous, low growing plant 1m x 3m with white flowers.

T. hyporhytus also low growing has pink flowers

T. denticulata also has pink flowers and can grow up to about 1.2m. Prune to keep compact. It can flower several times a year and he highly recommended it.

All three of these plants can be affected by webbing caterpillars but these are readily picked off.

Pick of the Bunch March 2021*Calytrix fraseri* A. Cunn. Pink summer Calytrix

Specimen grown by Amanda Loudon

Calytrix fraseri is a small, open, spreading shrub to 0.5-1m x 0.5 1-m. It grows in white, grey or yellow sand on sandplains, coastal dunes and rocky granite outcrops from north of Geraldton, south to Bussleton with some other occurrences further eastwards. The pink to purple flowers are produced from September to May and are often prolific and most conspicuous.



It grows well in full sun or partial sun in well-drained soils. In cultivation it "can be difficult to maintain plants in the garden for any length of time but it adapts well to container cultivation. Propagate from seed or cuttings. Grafted plants are sometimes available.

Calytrix is a member of the Myrtaceae family. A large family of c.3500 species in c.155 genera with c.1400 species in c.75 genera occurring in Australia. It includes such species as *Astartea*, *Baeckea*, *Callistemon*, *Darwinia*, *Kunzea*, *Leptospermum*, *Melaleuca*, *Scholtzia*, *Thryptomene* and *Verticordia*. *Calytrix* is an endemic genus of c.83 species with the greatest concentration in the south west corner of Western Australia.

The name *Calytrix* is derived from the Greek, *calyx* and *thrix*; hair referring to the hairs at the end of the calyx lobes. The species name, *fraseri*, honours Charles Fraser, 1st Superintendent of the Sydney Botanic Gardens.

NEXT MEETING**Tuesday 2nd April****Supper:** (Please bring milk) Marg Margitta**Write-up:** John Thompson**DIARY FOR 2021****APS South East Melbourne Meetings:**

- 6 April** Topic: "Malvaceae". Speaker: Trevor Blake
May Topic: A WA holiday. Speakers: Ivan and Marg Margitta
June Topic: "Boronia Oil". Speaker: Chris Long
July TBA
August AGM and members' slides
September Propagation night
October Malcolm Dow

Other dates:

- 28 March** APS SE Melbourne excursion to Jawbone Sanctuary. Meet at 2pm as per email note.
24 - 28 March - 25th Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show, Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Melbourne. **Cancelled**
17 April - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks.
25 April - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale, Eltham Senior Citizens Hall, Eltham. 10 am – 4 pm.
1 May - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale, Seawinds Gardens, Arthurs Seat Park, Purves Road, Arthurs Seat. 10 am - 3.30 pm
8 May - APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale 9 – 1. Possibly at St Andrews Uniting Church Bacchus Marsh. To be confirmed.

- 8 & 9 May** - Cranbourne Growing Friends hold a weekend plant sale in the gardens from 10.00 - 4.00. Check www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au for plant list and to ensure that the sale is going ahead prior to the sale.
- June** - APS Vic COM Shepparton – to be advised.
- 4 Sept** - APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick.
- 11 & 12 Sept** - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham. 10 – 4
- 25 & 26 Sept** - APS Grampians Group host APS Victoria COM Meeting.
- 2 & 3 Oct** - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.
- 9 October** - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. Huge flower display, plant sales, floral art, Native Bonsai, basket weaving and other displays & demonstrations. 9-4
- 16 Oct** - APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo and Sale, Memorial Hall, Kilmore.
- 23 & 24 Oct** - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.
- 13 & 14 Nov** - Garden DesignFest, Metro Melbourne & Mornington Peninsula
- 20 & 21 Nov** - Garden DesignFest, Regional Victoria: Ballarat, Euroa, Geelong and Macedon Area.
- 11 – 16 Sept 2022** - ANPSA Biennial Conference – Kiama, New South Wales.
The theme 'Australian Flora – Past Present Future'. The Conference will be hosted by the Australian Plants Society (NSW).
Preliminary details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can be found on the APS (NSW) website.
- 15 & 16 Oct 2022** - 14th FJC Rogers Seminar.
Topic: Fabulous peas (the typical 'pea-flowered' plants from the sub-family Faboideae. York on Lilydale in Mt Evelyn. Expressions of interest and queries to fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com

MARCH QUARTERLY MEETING OF APS VICTORIA

1. APS Vic fees are to remain the same for next year.
2. John King, the web administrator, is working on having membership renewals done online. Plans to be ready for April/May trials and to 'go live' in July.
You Tube channel has been set up to load APS Vic videos.
3. Consideration is being given to joining the Victorian Deer Control Network when it opens its membership.
4. Although only briefly mentioned this time, consideration is being given to having Growing Australian online. If that happens, printing costs for hard copies would be expected to increase substantially due to reduced numbers needed. A possible problem for those not online.
Old editions can already be found on the APS Vic website.
5. Possibility of APS Vic giving a donation to Phillip Johnston for his recreation of the Chelsea award winning garden in the Dandenongs. Project has been on hold due Covid. (The Age has just announced that Government has now agreed to a substantial donation).
6. MIFGS has been cancelled for 2021 (was shifted to October, but not now being held).
7. Neutrog has an online shop. There is a new system for ordering – the Group sends an email, Neutrog replies with a login, Group then orders. They have two online shops – one for members, one for the public. (Still need to build orders of a tonne for free delivery.)
8. Next Quarterly will be a one day effort in Shepparton. 5th June at North Shepparton Learning Centre, 9am registration, 9:30 meeting start. Two gardens will be open. Bring own lunch and mug.
The following meeting will be in the Grampians on 25th and 26th September (their 40th anniversary).
Members will be encouraged to stay for a week to attend the Pomonal Wildflower Sale and possible side events during the week. More details later.
9. 2022 FJC Rogers Seminar is on 'Fabulous Peas' and hosted by APS Maroondah.

7.

Monthly Photo Gallery

Ray has been busy with his camera again. Firstly, some wildlife:



A Saunderson's case moth and the mark left on the side of his shed after hanging out for over a week. (Female, *Metura elongatus*)



Scioglyptis canescaria ↑ Bark Moth

↙ *Paraguda nasuta* (Snout Moth)



Possibly a Stick Case Moth, *Clania lewinii*. It was found hanging out on an old wheelie bin.



8.

Pterygophorus cinctus, Callistemon sawfly wasp



Now, for some plants (again from Ray):

Correa reflexa "Fat Fred"



An autumn favourite - *Crocea saligna*



Acacia linifolia bush



Acacia linifolia up close



9.

Adenanthos cuneatus



Acacia harveyi



Calytrix fraseri

