



Dianella admixta

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

A00131128P

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JULY NEWSLETTER 2022

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, February to December except November. **Visitors are always very welcome**
The venue is the Hughesdale Community Hall, Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads, Hughesdale (MEL 69 C7)

COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT: John Thompson thomme@netspace.net.au
SECRETARY: Chris Bain aps.se.melb@gmail.com
TREASURER: Norm Seaton normarjs@bigpond.com
PUBLIC OFFICER: Chris Bain aps.se.melb@gmail.com
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Marj Seaton normarjs@bigpond.com
APS VIC DELEGATE Marj Seaton
COMMITTEE: Amanda Louden amandalouden@icloud.com

Please forward any newsletter contributions, comments or photos to Marj at 36 Voumard Street, Oakleigh South 3167 or to the email address above.

*****Note: Deadline for the August newsletter is July 25th*****

Meetings

**8pm, Hughesdale Community Hall
Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads,
Tuesday, 5th July 8pm**

Speakers: Norm and Mari Seaton

Topic: Shepparton Botanic Gardens, Tanks and Silos

In April of this year, Norm and Marj escaped the city for a couple of days to visit the Shepparton area with the idea of investigating the painted silos in the area. The ones they looked at formed two loops – one to the west, the other to the north and east of Shepparton. Having seen the Shepparton Gardens in the very early days of their establishment, they first wanted to see what progress had been made in their development. This talk will take us through this journey. A second trip later in the year is planned to look at silos in the Horsham area.

PLEASE NOTE THAT MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE ON JULY 1ST

Norm Seaton has individualised membership forms which need to be completed so that updated information can be supplied to the new online database. Would all members please return these to Norm asap.

If you are unable to attend meetings, there is a form at the end of this newsletter. Please complete as far as you are able then post to Norm with a cheque or notification of having paid by electronic transfer.

RAINFALL FOR 2022

2.

NEWS from the APS Vic Quarterly Meeting

1. The new membership database is now installed. Corrections and additions are being made with help from District Group Membership Officers. A selected few groups are currently trialling it. Memberships for 2022-2023 will still be made through most District Groups but we expect that 2023-2024 will be done online by individual members.
2. Grants: Four grants were approved.
 - \$1830 to APS Bendigo for Honeyeater Bushland Reserve revegetation work.
 - \$1000 to APS Heathcote for group establishment costs.
 - \$5000 to Ross Shepherd/APS Mornington Peninsula for a Seaford Banksia Arboretum.
 - \$3898 to APS Bendigo for an Orchids of Bendigo reference guide.
3. Gordon Barfield has been appointed as the new Treasurer of APS Vic.
4. APS Wilson Park has folded as they have been told to move by the Council Administrator but has been replaced with APS Cardinia Region, based at Deep Creek in Pakenham. There will not be a plant sale this year. Alex Smart is President.
5. Ned's Corner, previously a Trust for Nature property, has been returned to its Traditional owners. APS Vic gave Trust for Nature \$30,000 in 2002 to help it purchase the land.
6. The Australian Garden at Olinda, a version of the Philip Johnson successful Chelsea entry, has been started and is hoped to be open by the end of 2022.
7. The organisers of the ANPSA Conference being held this year in Kiama, NSW, are urgently seeking registrations. (See "Promotions").
8. The MIFGS stand this year was very successful, thanks to the involvement of Kuranga. Decisions about 2023 have not yet been made.
9. APS Vic is looking for a new Vice President, a Research Officer and a Membership Officer.
10. The next quarterly Meeting and AGM will be held in Swan Hill on 24th and 25th September.

JUNE MEETING

Speaker: Malcolm Dow

Topic: Sustainable Gardening

On a cold wet night, Malcolm spoke to us about his beginnings in gardening and how his gardens have developed over time. His first efforts were at the age of 4; he was guerrilla planting at the age of 12, has been interested in sustainable gardening since a young boy and has planted in golf courses, schools and neighbourhoods ever since.

We saw how his first home in Edithvale changed from a typical English style garden with clipped lawns , azaleas etc. to a vigorous bush garden featuring many native plants.

Malcolm's talk discussed four critical elements of garden design:

Aesthetic considerations, edible/productive sections, provision of biodiversity and energy saving/ house comfort.

3.

Aesthetics:

There is the opportunity to be creative; it is a very subjective activity and you can put into the garden exactly what you want to see. To do this, Malcolm aims to plant layer upon layer, both vertically and horizontally, have something flowering at all times of the year, and likes to have waves and movement in his gardens.



Edibles and productive areas:

There is great satisfaction in growing your own food. You get quick rewards, freshness and flavour and there is a reduction in food miles. To accomplish these features, you need fruit trees, a vegie garden, and he likes to have herbs in pots and raised and wicking beds which save the body and help reduce water use. He grows some bush tucker as well. Raised beds are particularly useful when there are large trees with their invasive roots. Malcolm uses 'found materials' where possible, eg, reinforcing mesh for climbing plants, old cut-off tanks for wicking beds, and styrofoam boxes for tomatoes and carrots in particular. These boxes are used double storey with bases cut out of the top boxes but leaving the lower one with its base intact.



Biodiversity:

Habitat destruction is rife, there is a modern trend to reduce the canopy cover because houses are built to cover most of their blocks and native plants are not the most popular plants. Malcolm likes to have a range of heights, and a variety of plant forms to create a density which allows for shelter, food, water and reduces predators. One feature I found attractive was a ball of woven wire over a bird bath – this allowed the small birds eg thornbills, some protection from the larger wattle birds when drinking. By having a variety of plants, insects, birds and lizards are encouraged – he uses iNaturalist to help in identifying these.



4.



Energy saving and House Comfort:

With our current climate emergency, it is useful to be comfortable in our homes and to save money. Tall canopy trees, including deciduous trees and vines, dense greenery and misting sprayers help accomplish this. Twenty

years ago, Malcolm was one of the first to plant up his nature strip, despite some opposition from Council. He now has no grass but uses *Correa alba* pruned to 30cm and two coastal banksias thriving there. He has eucalypts, an avocado tree for denser shade, a large ornamental grape vine over a pergola for colour and house shade during summer and these make a big temperature difference. He has several composting systems including old bath tubs for prunings, worm farms, chooks and

Gedye bins. His ponds have pobblebonks and sometimes striped marsh frogs. He has bee/insect hotels. Possums and rats can be a problem – currently *Eucalyptus falcifolia* is under siege from possums.

Thank you Malcolm for a relaxed and entertaining talk.

M. Seaton



5.
SPECIMEN TABLE

Marj, Mandy and John were our contributors this month.

All brought in pieces of *Hakea cristata*. This is a very prickly bush which takes a while to flower but worth it as it is one of the few plants in flower just now. It can grow very large so is worth pruning to a height wanted. The hard fruits have a crested ridge which helps identify the plants. It is a rare plant in the wild and is insect pollinated.

Marj offered *Acacia suaveolens* (Sweet wattle) and commented that this plant can be seen in great numbers, together with *Epacris impressa* at the Bunarong Reserve in Frankston. *Acacia suaveolens* is one of the



extremely prickly (good for birds) and has cream flowers. It needs heavy pruning. Mandy commented that the flowers go black after cutting, so it is not a good flower for inside. Her final specimen was of *Eucalyptus preissiana* (right). This is a splendid small eucalypt with large buds and beautiful creamy yellow flowers. There can be a lot of weight in the buds so branches can break.

Apart from the hakea, John offered a branch of the firewheel tree, *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, - see Pick of the bunch, and *Acacia macrodenia* or "zig-zag" wattle from Queensland. It is insect pollinated, has weeping foliage and yellow spherical flowers. An open plant, John's is about 3.5m tall, 3m wide and he expects it to grow to about 5m tall.



first wattles of the season, has cream flowers, grows to about 2m, has attractive seed pods and an open growth habit.

Her other specimens were *Templetonia retusa*, both in its prostrate and normal habits and *Austromyrtus ciliata*, showing its tiny white flowers, later turning pinkish red.

Mandy brought in *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* which is also



6.

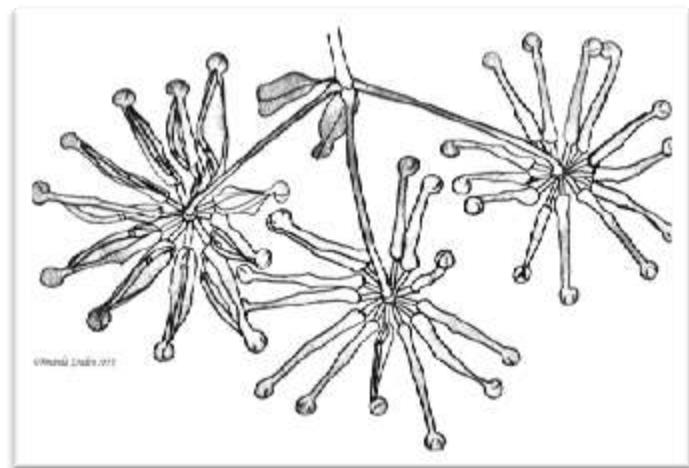
PICK OF THE BUNCH -June 2022

Stenocarpus sinuatus (Loudon) Endl. Firewheel Tree
Specimen grown by John Thompson

Stenocarpus sinuatus is a tree up to 25 - 30 metres tall. It is smaller in cooler areas and in cultivation, rarely exceeding 10 metres. Its natural distribution is from north east NSW to the Atherton Tableland in north Qld. It also occurs in New Guinea. The dark green foliage can be simple or lobed with a glossy upper surface, with the under surface being a paler green. It yields a lovely grained red timber that is sought after by wood turners.

The flowers are bright red and are produced on the older wood. The flowers occur in umbels¹ of 6 to 20 with the pedicels² radiating out to form a 'wheel' up to 10 cm in diameter. Flowering in Melbourne usually occurs from late summer to early winter.

Stenocarpus sinuatus will grow in most well drained soils in a sunny or partially sunny aspect. It is sensitive to frost while young and moderately drought tolerant, though it appreciates supplementary watering during summer. Propagation is from seed or from cuttings. If the plants are seed grown they may take seven years or more before producing their first flowers. Cutting grown plants may flower within four years or less.



Stenocarpus is a member of the Proteaceae family, A family of c.1500 species in c.80 genera occurring mainly in the Southern Hemisphere in tropical and temperate regions with c.900 species in 45 genera in Australia. It includes such genera as *Banksia*, *Conospermum*, *Grevillea*, *Hakea*, *Isopogon*, *Lambertia*, *Lomatia*, *Persoonia*, *Telopea* and *Xylomelum*. There are c.10 species of *Stenocarpus* that occur in Australia. The rest, c.15 species, occur only in New Caledonia.

The name, *Stenocarpus*, is from the Greek, *stenos*, narrow and *carpos*, a fruit, a reference to the characteristics of the seed capsules. The specific name, *sinuatus*, is from the Latin, meaning wavy, a reference to the margins of the leaves.

1. Umbel - a flower cluster in which stalks of nearly equal length spring from a common centre and form a flat or curved surface.
2. Pedicel - a small stalk bearing an individual flower in an inflorescence.

NEXT MEETING

Supper: Dale Martin (please bring milk)
Write-up: John Thompson

Our Meeting on 2nd of August will be our AGM. Nomination Forms for Office Bearers will be in our next newsletter.

7.
DIARY

APS South East Melbourne Meetings:

- July 5th** Speakers: Norm and Marj Seaton – “Tanks, Silos and the Shepparton Botanic Garden”
August 2nd AGM and slides. Get your photos to John a week beforehand please.
August 29th Committee Meeting, Chris Bain’s home.
September John Thompson and Mandy Louden – North Queensland Tour
October Chris Bain – Desert Trek (Tentative)
November Lunch at Kuranga. Details later.
December Raffle extraordinaire, members’ slides, Christmas break-up and supper
February 2023 Speaker: Phoenix Wolfe – Dandenong Wetlands

APS Victoria

- 16, 17 July** – Cranbourne Friends Spring Plant Sale 10am - 4pm
27, 28 August – APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre 10 - 4
3 Sept – APS Wilson park (Berwick) Plant Sale **Cancelled**
26 to 30 September – 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Melbourne. *Influence and Action: Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change*. Includes a youth program for future gardens’ leaders aged 18 to 24.
15 & 16 October – 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
- 22 & 23 October** - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm.

Templetonia retusa – photo Marj Seaton



8.

Jean has been navvying – digging out a Silver Princess at one of the gardens she looks after. The root ball is quite impressive. She had planned to just cut it back but found that it was threatening a wall so the whole thing had to go. At the bottom right is an old Kuranga leaflet discussing growing the Eucalypt. If anyone would like a full size copy, let Marj know and she will send it on.



PROMOTIONS

Australian Plants Society Ballarat District
Winter 2022

NATIVE PLANT SHOW



DISPLAYING THE REMARKABLE DIVERSITY
of
AUSTRALIAN FLORA
GROWING IN BALLARAT GARDENS in WINTER

NATIVE PLANTS for SALE

Saturday 25 June 10:00am – 4:00pm
 Sunday 26 June 10:00am – 4:00pm

ADMISSION \$5

ROBERT CLARK HORTICULTURAL CENTRE
Ballarat Botanical Gardens
 (Next to the Conservatory)
 Access from Wendouree Parade or Gillies Street

Any Covid19 regulation that is in place at the time of the Show will be strictly adhered to

INTERNET: www.apvic.org.au
 EMAIL: aps_ballarat@yahoo.com.au
 CONTACT: P: 5341 5567

CRANBOURNE FRIENDS
 Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria



Growing Friends **Winter Plant Sale**

Come along and select from a range of small and large plants many of which you will find in the Australian Garden:



Saturday 23 &
 Sunday 24 July 2022
 10am to 4pm
 Australian Garden –
 Cranbourne

Grasses, climbers, border-plants,
 ground-cover, small & large
 bushes and trees, plants for wildlife

Plant-list available
 3 weeks before sale:
crabotanicgarden.org.au/plantlist.html



FABULOUS PEAS

F. J. C. Rogers Seminar
 15th & 16th October 2022
 Mt Evelyn, Melbourne

Learn about Australian pea flowers! The fabulous plants of the Faboideae sub-family.



Speakers from interstate and local.
 Topics include:

- Identification
- Propagation
- Horticulture
- Research

Pea plants and books for sale
 Garden bus tour
 Australian pea art exhibition

Hosted by Australian Plants Society Maroondah
 Contact: fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com
apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2022



Australian flora - Past present future

ANPSA 2022 Biennial Conference - Kiama



11 - 16 September 2022 - ANPSA Biennial Conference 2022 – Kiama, New South Wales.
 Preliminary details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can be found on the APS (NSW) website. <https://austplants.com.au/>

25 to 29 September 2022 – (note that this is a date change – it was to be from 26th to 30th September)
 7th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Melbourne. *Influence and Action: Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change*. Includes a youth program for future gardens' leaders aged 18 to 24.
<https://www.7gbgc.org/>

10.

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY

South East Melbourne Region Inc A00131128P

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL

Rates current from 1st July 2022

	APS SE Melbourne	APS Victoria	TOTAL	Optional annual subscription to Australian Plants magazine (4 issues)	Total with Optional subscription
A Single	\$10	\$35	\$45	\$15	\$60
B Household	\$15	\$40	\$55	\$15	\$70
C Student <i>Full Time, under 16</i>	\$5	\$26	\$31	\$15	\$46
D Member of another group	\$5		\$5	\$15	\$20

- Membership of APS Victoria is required for all members of APS South East Melbourne
- Membership includes subscription to the APS Vic magazine "Growing Australian" (4 issues per year)
- If you pay your APS Vic membership through another group, sign on with us as **D**.
- You may pay for 2 or 3 years in advance. Simply multiply your chosen annual total by the number of years
- New subscription paid after February 1st runs automatically until June 30th of the following year.

-
- I wish to join/rejoin the Australian Plants Society as (circle one) **A B C D**
 I wish to join for (circle one) **1 2 3** years
 I agree to be bound by the Rules and Bylaws of the Society
 I wish to subscribe also to Australian Plants Magazine

Amount due \$.....

Signed Date

Title(s) First Name(s)

Surname(s) Membership No.

Postal
Address.....

Email Phone.....

APS Vic Membership paid at other APS Group.....

PAYMENT METHOD (Tick one)

Direct bank deposit (CBA) with email notification to Norm Seaton at normaris@bigpond.com
BSB 063 209 Account No. 1002 6413 Include your surname as a reference.

OR

Cheque for APS South East Melbourne Region posted to:
Treasurer, APS South East Melbourne, 36 Voumard Street, Oakleigh South, VIC 3167

OR

Pay by cash or cheque and deliver by hand to the Treasurer at our next meeting