



Dianella admixta

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY  
**SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.**

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**NOVEMBER 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](mailto:thomme@netspace.net.au)  
 SECRETARY: Chris Bain [aps.se.melb@gmail.com](mailto:aps.se.melb@gmail.com)  
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 NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Marj Seaton [normarjs@bigpond.com](mailto:normarjs@bigpond.com)  
 APS VIC DELEGATE: Marj Seaton  
 COMMITTEE: Amanda Louden [amandalouden@icloud.com](mailto: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 December newsletter is November 22nd\*\*\*\*\***

Meetings

8pm, Hughesdale Community Hall  
 Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads

**NOVEMBER OUTING**

As always, due to the Melbourne Cup, we try to organise an outing in November instead of our regular meeting. This year, as we did in 2021, we will have a luncheon at the Paperbark Café at Kuranga Nursery in Mt. Evelyn. The date is Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup>, with our booking timed for 11:45am.

If you have not previously notified Marj Seaton of your attendance, please do so before October 31<sup>st</sup>, 9570 6293, or at the email address given above.

Members will be given \$10 to either spend in the nursery or to reduce the price of their lunch.

Let's hope for weather that is conducive to browsing amongst the plants

**RAINFALL FOR 2022**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Oakleigh Sth	79.4	6.6	76.8	82	28	72.8	48.2	101.7	59.4				554.9
Highett	64	4	28.5	31	36	53	33.5	72.2	44.2				432
Hampton	59	1.5	46.5	49.75	23.5	42.5	37	59.45					319.2
Cranbourne Sth	63	3	75	74	58	104	60	98	51				585
Elsternwick	81.5	0.6	55.8	69.3	14.6	41	42	65	63				432.8
Ashburton	77	6.2	62.2	84.2	25.2	61	45	92.2	46				499

2.

**DESERT TREK – the Flora of the Simpson Desert**  
**A Talk by Chris Bain**

Chris did this four wheel drive trip in June taking 17 days and travelling in daytime temperatures of 18 – 20°C, with clear cold nights – about 0°C.

The journey went through Mildura. The Flinders Ranges, William Creek, Oodnadatta to Birdsville and through the Channel country. Having had rain early in the year, there were plenty of flowers.

At the narrow Alligator Gorge near Wilmington in the southern Flinders Ranges, SA, he saw fungi, maidenhair amongst other ferns, *Wurmbea* (Early Nancy), *Astroloma* (native cranberry) and grass trees.

On to Arkaroola in the northern Flinders Ranges, many grass trees were evident as well as *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* shooting vigorously in the creek beds and, of particular interest, a cross section of fossilised stromatolites. (Active stromatolites can be seen at Shark Bay in WA). *Zygophyllum* (Twin leaf), tobacco flowers, wattles and flowering eucalypts were all found here. *Acacia tetragophylla*, or “Dead finish” and Sturt Desert

Pea, (*Swainsona Formosa*) were seen at Chambers Gorge, near Blinman. At the Arkaroola village, there were eremophilas, bush tomatoes, spinifex and quandongs. Many areas of cypress pines had died as they had not received the 100mm rain they need per year. The very agile yellow footed wallabies were around.



Near William Creek, we were shown mound springs (left), one bubbling, some having fish and surrounded by sedges and rushes. Blue bush was common. Flying over Lake Eyre which was starting to fill from the Queensland floods showed the landscape coming to life.

From William Creek to the pink roadhouse at Oodnadatta,

there are endless corrugations on the long straight roads. Then from Oodnadatta via the ruins of the Dalhousie homestead and Dalhousie Springs, he traversed 650 km through the desert wilderness, at roughly 120km/day, 20km/hr in sand. Dalhousie Springs water is at ~40°C and at Purnie bore, thousands of zebra finches were seen (right). Red dirt sandhills were prominent. The tracks now used to cross the Simpson desert were originally developed by the French Petroleum Company in the 1960s and 70s for oil exploration.



*Crotolaria cunninghamii*

Desert camp



3.



*Trachymene glaucifolia*



*Water flowing into Lake Eyre*

Amongst the plants seen were several species of Ptilotus (Mulla Mulla), Crotolaria cunninghamii, eremophilas, *Trachymene glaucifolia*, masses of Senecio gregorii (annual yellowtop), tiny white low growing white flowers, poached egg daisies, senna, enchylaena, pink/mauve daisies and a very prickly hakea.

*Annual yellowtop*



*Corrugations*



In the Channel Country, between Birdsville and Quilpie, there was still a lot of water in the Diamantina with many pelicans. Water still covered low lying ground and most of the roads into Innaminka were cut off, as it so frequently is after rains, Coopers Creek was flowing brown and once again, there were daisies and yellow flowers abounding.

Many thanks Chris for a splendid presentation about an area not many visit.

4.

### SPECIMEN TABLE – October Meeting

John was our first presenter with a very pretty pink prostanthera first off and then another with a striking purple calyx. Pure white *Westringia longifolia* can grow to 2.5m tall. *Lasiopetalum schultzenii* (below right) is a tough, vigorous plant with whitish 'flowers' adaptable to either sun or shade. It grows to about 1.5m high and 2.5m wide.



*Grevillea wilkinsonii*, left, ('Tumut grevillea') is good for dry areas and has plummy/mauve flowers (learn more in Pick of the Bunch).



Mandy brought in the small leaf form of *Acacia glaucoptera*. One of its attractions is bronze new foliage; it grows to about 0.5m x 1m. *Hakea purpurea* has reddish purple flowers and is very prickly. *Boronia clavata* is perfumed and is quite tall (2 – 2.5m high) and good



for a skinny spot. A weepy grey bush getting to about 1.5m round is *Acacia ashbyae*. It's flowers are yellow balls. As peas are the flavour of the month (FJC Rogers seminar on 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> October) Mandy showed *Hovea elliptica* with its very purple flowers and *Kennedia becxiana* which is a strong climber with red flowers, currently in a pot. A very pretty *Randia* or native gardenia (left) is growing in full shade, has a pleasing scent, especially at night, and white flowers circling the stems.

From Marj we had dwarf *Leptospermum "Julie Anne"* which has pink flowers and is excellent for rockeries. *Epacris longiflora* goes on flowering forever. Two Thomasias, *T. purpurea x solenacea* and *T. solenacea* are covered in flowers – the former purple, the latter whitish with lime coloured leaves and growing lushly to about 3m. *Asterolasia hexapetala* (right) is covered in lemony flowers all of which have five petals! - a recommended



bush, growing to 1.5m x 1.5m. *Eriostemon australasius* comes in either pink or white – Marj's is pink, and grows in part shade but will take more sun. *Grevillea flexuosa* is a large bush which keeps its yellow cylindrical flowers for some weeks.

**Pick of the Bunch - October 2022**

*Grevillea wilkinsonii* Tumut Grevillea  
Specimen grown by John Thompson

*Grevillea wilkinsonii* is a medium sized shrub 2 metres high by 2 metres wide. It was first discovered in 1991 along the banks of the Goobarragandra River near Tumut in NSW. It is listed as critically endangered. There are just over 1000 plants left in the wild.

It has proved hardy and reliable in cultivation. A sunny aspect with well drained soils is preferred. Propagation is from cuttings.

The toothed leaves are green, almost hairless on their upper surface whilst the lower surface is covered hairs giving it a silvery appearance. The pinkish flowers form toothbrush-like clusters about 3 - 5 cm long. Flowering occurs from September to October. The floral perfume is quite strong and a little bit unpleasant. Insects are the primary pollinators.

*Grevillea* 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 *Adenanthos*, *Banksia*, *Conospermum*, *Hakea*, *Isopogon*, *Lomatia*, *Persoonia*, *Telopea*, *Stenocarpus* and *Xylomelum*.



The genus *Grevillea* occurs principally on the Australian mainland, with one species (*G. australis*) occurring in Tasmania, three species in New Caledonia, three species (one endemic - *G. papuana*) in Papua-New Guinea and one species (*G. elbertii*) in the Celebes. It is a large genus with c.350 species. It is the third largest genus of Australian plants behind *Acacia* and *Eucalyptus*.

The genus *Grevillea* is named after Charles Francis Greville (1749-1809), one of the founders of the Royal Horticultural Society. The species name, *wilkinsonii*, is after Tom Wilkinson its discoverer.

**DIARY****APS South East Melbourne Meetings:**

**November 12<sup>th</sup>** Lunch at Kuranga 11:45am .

**December 6<sup>th</sup>** Raffle extraordinaire, members' slides, Christmas break-up and supper

**February 2023** Speaker: Phoenix Wolfe – Dandenong Wetlands

**March 2023** Speaker Geoff Lay

**APS Victoria**

**November 26** COMM hosted by Keilor Plains

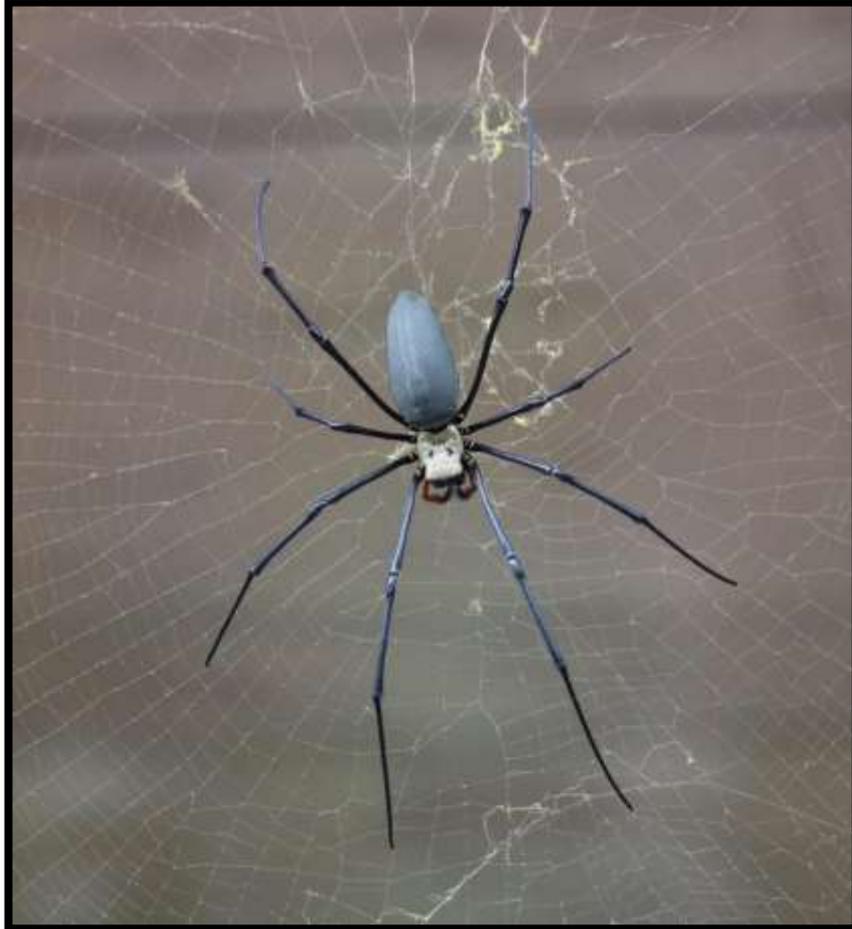
**March 25,26 2023** Cranbourne Friends Autumn plant sale 10 – 4

**April 1 2023** APS Geelong plant sale. Details later

6.

## *Monthly Gallery*

A rather splendid spider - one of John's photos from his Queensland trip



Just to prove it's possible to have six petals on  
*Astrolasia hexapetala*, Ivan took these at Maranoa gardens:



7.

Seen by Norm and Marj in Swan Hill – a monster Moreton Bay Fig – thought to be the biggest in Victoria:

