



Dianella admixta

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

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DECEMBER 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
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 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 February newsletter is January 22nd*******

Meetings

8pm, Hughesdale Community Hall

Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads

6TH December 8pm

Christmas wind-up and members' slides

We are trialling a new raffle system at this meeting. Everyone who wishes to participate buys a ticket for the raffle. A draw is held with all winners taking a plant or object from the table. If you wish to volunteer something not a plant – eg coffee cups, books, aprons etc, feel free to add it to the collection on offer.

For our slide night, this is your opportunity to show off the places you've been and the plants and animals you've seen during the last year or so. To participate, you need to get your photos to John, either on a USB stick or by email a week ahead.

At the end of the slides, the plant table is opened up for general sales – approximately \$1 a plant though the growers may ask for more or less, depending on what's available.

We finish with a Christmas supper so please bring something to share – eats &/or drinks.

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	176.1			731
Highbett	64	4	28.5	31	36	53	33.5	72.2	44.2	163			595
Hampton	59	1.5	46.5	49.75	23.5	42.5	37	59.45	40.6	151.8			511.6
Cranbourne Sth	63	3	75	74	58	104	60	98	51	190			775
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

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BUSY, BUSY, BUSY.....

So many places to go and plants to see.

The Swan Hill Quarterly.

The FJC Rogers seminar on peas

Cranbourne Plants Sale

Our November outing to Kuranga

Is it any wonder our wallets are depleted!

Held in September at the Pioneer Village in Swan Hill, the APS Vic quarterly was a wonderful opportunity to visit the Murray River (before the major floods hit). A laser light show on the Friday night was a great way to start the weekend. Set on the banks of the Murray, water jets are shot into the air and, as the water falls, slides showing the history of the area are projected onto the water screen. Well worth seeing if you are in the area.

Visits were made to a cut flower farm featuring banksias, eucalypts and many other species, and to Barry



Teague's garden which had a wonderful collection of Aussie plants in a garden with plenty of space to show them off. A ride on a paddle steamer, ending at the Murray Downs Homestead completed our visit.



Although there was plenty of standing water in the area, the crops at that stage were in splendid condition. We felt very sorry for the locals a week or so later after the heavens had opened and the country was flooded. A most successful FJC Rogers seminar was held at Mt. Evelyn. The Saturday sessions covered the botany of the pea family in detail (Marilyn Bull), the origin and evolution of the bacon and egg peas (Professor Mike Crisp), [I was particularly interested to hear that most bacon and egg

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peas are bee pollinated with only a relatively few pollinated by birds], Rhizobia symbiosis of legumes (Dr. Julie Ardley), propagation (Mandy Thompson), horticulture and propagation (Royce Raleigh) and Peas in Art (our own John Thompson). Chris Clarke entertained us at dinner with a travelogue covering visits to Mt Hotham and Northern Queensland. On the

Sunday, visits were made to the public gardens at Karwarra and Maranoa as well as to the private gardens of Marilyn Bull and Bev Fox. The waratahs and hoveas at Karwarra were particularly memorable.



Apart from needing to paddle through large puddles caused by a faulty drain, the Cranbourne sale was, once again, highly successful. A new stand featured rare plants propagated by Dr. Meg Hurst's group.



Xanthorrhoea at Kuranga car park

Twenty one members and partners attended the Kuranga bash on 12th November. The nursery was in full flower for spring and was a great temptation for us all. Lunch in the Paperbark Café was a jolly occasion and quite a few purchases were made from the gift shop.

DIARY

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

September 23,24 2023 COMM hosted by Grampians. Week long activities followed by Pomonal native Flower Show on Sept 30 and Oct 1.

SAD NEWS

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Bernard Boulton, one of the mail-out officers for APS Vic. Bernard was a long-time member of APS Maroondah. He worked tirelessly for the Friends of the Cranbourne Botanic Garden., He and Dallas were the mainstay of our exhibits at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) where Bernard's creative flair was much in evidence.

Three Summer Flowering Plants from the Myrtaceae Family **Article submitted by John Thompson**

Beaufortia orbifolia F. Muell. Ravensthorpe Bottlebrush

Beaufortia orbifolia is a medium shrub up to 2-3m x 2-3m. As the common name suggests it come from the Ravensthorpe area in WA.

It has small, almost round leaves arranged in two pairs of opposite rows (decussate) and bottlebrush-like flowers. The stamens are yellow green with red tips when the brush first opens but as it ages the whole brush becomes red. Flowering is from December to March but can also be sporadic.



Photo: Australian National Botanic Gardens

B. orbifolia is one of the hardier members of the genus being very

adaptable to a wide range of soil types, withstanding wet and dry periods, frost tolerant and growing in full or partial sun. Pruning is beneficial to maintain a dense shrub. Propagate from seed or cuttings.

The genus is named after Mary Somerset, Duchess of Beaufort (?1630 - 1714), who had botanic gardens at Badminton and Chelsea and a large collection of drawings of flowers. The specific name, *orbifolia*, is from the Latin; *orbis*, a circle and *folium*, a leaf, in reference to the rounded leaves.

Melaleuca lateritia A. Dietr. Robin Red-breast Bush

Melaleuca lateritia is a small to medium shrub 1 3m x 1-2m that is found from Eneabba to near Albany in south west WA. It is generally found in low lying areas of sandy clay which are prone to waterlogging in the winter.

The scarlet red flowers are borne on older wood on very short branchlets from September to January. Its often open habit means the flowers are well displayed but branch thinning can be carried out to enhance the display. They respond well to pruning and can be cut back very hard although the removal of older wood will diminish the number of flowers the following year.



Photo: Australian Botanic Garden Mount Annan

A sunny aspect with well drained soil and some supplementary watering during prolonged dry spells is required. Nectar feeding birds are attracted to the flowers. Propagation is from seed or from cuttings

The name *Melaleuca* is derived from the Greek, *melas*, black and *leukos*, white possibly referring to the blackened bark of the lower trunk due to fire and the white papery bark of the upper branches. The specific name, *lateritia*, from the Latin meaning brick red, referring to the flowers.

Babingtonia camphorosmae (Endl.) Lindl. Camphor Myrtle

Babingtonia camphorosmae is a low spreading shrub to about 50cm high by 1 metre across. It is found in the wheatbelt, Peel and South West regions of WA between Northam and Bridgetown and as far east as Katanning. It was formerly known as *Baeckea camphorosmae*.

The genus *Baeckea* has been split into several different genera. *Babingtonia sensu stricto* is endemic to Western Australia. The Victorian species of *Baeckea* have been moved into *Sannantha*, *Euromyrtus* and *Hysterobaeckea*.

B. camphorosmae has neat, heath like, fragrant foliage with masses of pink to white flowers in late spring and summer.

The local Noongar people after preparing the foliage in the appropriate manner, used the leaves to treat skin conditions, headaches and upset stomachs. The flowers, leaves and stems were used to treat skin conditions.



Photo: Wikipedia

A full sun aspect with excellent drainage is required. Propagation is easiest from cuttings.

The genus name, *Babingtonia*, is the original name applied to this plant by the botanist John Lindley in 1842. It is in honour of Charles Babington (1808 - 1895), a British botanist and archaeologist.

The specific name, *camphorosmae*, is from the Latin *camphora*, referring to camphor, and the Greek *osme*, meaning smell, scent i.e. camphor scented.

WAMA RECEIVES \$6.75M STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING

WAMA is an arts precinct being set up adjacent to Gariwerd (Grampians) – it is expected to be a major tourist destination once opened.



The WAMA Foundation Ltd, has received \$6.75M from the Victorian State Government as part of the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund, to support the delivery of a \$9M Art Gallery facility, significantly boosting the local economy, and diversifying the tourism offering within the Grampians region. Chairman, Greg Lewin says “This funding will take WAMA from vision to realisation. The facility will be a welcome addition to tourism in the Grampians, broadening the cultural experience for visitors and locals. Importantly, building and operating WAMA will bring significant benefits to the local economy.”

WAMA will be Australia’s first art and environment precinct with the centrepiece being a world-class art gallery dedicated to art inspired by the natural environment, surrounded by indigenous wildlife, native botanic gardens and bushlands.

The funding will contribute significantly to building Stage 1 of the 16-hectare masterplan of the WAMA site to construct a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled art gallery, café, retail shop and large multipurpose conference centre, with parking, visitor access pathways, landscaping and boardwalk.

Once open, the WAMA gallery will hold major exhibitions of art inspired by the natural environment, borrowing from top galleries and collections in Australia and internationally. WAMA will offer a unique cultural destination by exploring the deep connections between the natural environment and art. There isn’t anything else quite like it within Australia. We believe WAMA will be an internationally recognised tourist destination.

Greg Lewin says while the organisation has received this funding there is still more work to be done to raise money to complete the project. “We have recently embarked on a Capital Campaign, turning our focus to philanthropy, to raise additional funds to ensure the project can be completed and our targets achieved. We have a great network of supporters who have helped us get this far however, now more than ever we need the support of the community behind us.

WAMA plans to be fully operational and open to the public by the end of 2024.

Monthly Gallery

Two photos taken at Bev Fox’s garden – an Isopogon and a cultivated nature strip.



How’s this for a neat border of Coprosmas – seen in Swan Hill.

