



Dianella admixta

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

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JUNE NEWSLETTER 2023

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:

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

*******DEADLINE FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER IS JUNE 22ND*******

<p><u>Next Meeting</u> Hughesdale Community Hall Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads Tuesday 6th June 2023 Topic: Silo Art part 2 SPEAKERS: Norm and Marj Seaton</p>	<p><u>CONTENTS</u></p>
<p>Norm and Marj did their second road trip looking at the Silo Art Trail in October 2022. Initially based in Horsham, they travelled two loops; one west through Goroke, Edenhope and Kaniva, the second heading more northerly as far as Walpeup and Sealake then south through Wedderburn and St Arnaud. This presentation will cover the silos, other art work and some of the gardens and vegetation seen along the way.</p>	<p>Page 2 Rainfall Membership Renewals Page3 - 6 May Meeting – Banksia talk Pages 6 - 7 Specimen table Page 8 Pick of the Bunch Next Meeting Page 9 Events diary Pages 9 – 11 Photo Gallery Page 11 Promotions</p>

RAINFALL FOR 2023 (mm)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Oakleigh South	15.1	36.8	47.6	99.1									198.6
Highett	10.7	27.5	49.2	80									167.4
Hampton	10.15	23.34	31.46	98.75									163.70
Cranbourne South	7	29	49	79									164
Elsternwick	10	23	37.5	100									170.5
Ashburton													

*****MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL*****

Memberships are due for renewal at the end of June and you are to do your own, except where you don't have computer access, in which case see Norm.

The new fees appropriate to our members are:

APS Vic: Households \$44, Singles \$38, Students \$28

APS SE Melb: Households \$ Singles \$ Students \$

To renew, go to <https://apsvic.org.au/membership/>

There are instructions available immediately by clicking on the link.

You will need to have available your email and membership number (from the bottom of your yellow *Growing Australian* envelope –*don't throw it out!*) as well as your credit or debit card.

You can also pay by electronic funds transfer but that has to be done separately through your bank and you will need to give your name and membership number as a reference.

Look for [login](#) under the heading New Membership, do the login and proceed from there to fill in the details for your membership.

Review, then confirm (important). If you have paid by credit card you should get confirmation or your renewal straight away.

For those without computer access, see Norm Seaton who will accept your payment (cash or cheque) and complete your membership for you.

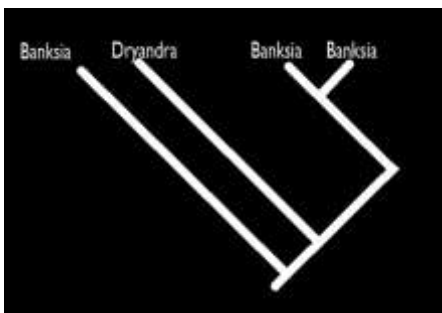
If you have any problems, see Marj or Norm who will endeavour to sort it out.

MAY MEETINGSpeaker: John ThompsonTopic: Banksias

At our May meeting John gave an illustrated talk on Banksias, their botany, discovery, cultivation, indigenous uses and their depiction in the arts and crafts.

An overview of the genus *Banksia*.

- Number of species - c.173
- Of the c.173 species, 154 occur in south-western Australia and adjacent inland areas.
- All species except one are endemic to Australia. (*B. dentata* extends to New Guinea.)
- Victoria - 8 species plus one naturalised. *B. canei*, *B. croajingolensis*, *B. integrifolia*, *B. marginata*, *B. ornata*, *B. saxicola*, *B. serrata* and *B. spinulosa*. *B. ericifolia* - naturalised



2007 & 2008 saw the publication of a paper using phylogenetic studies by Mast & Thiele proposing that the genus *Dryandra* be subsumed into *Banksia*. This has been accepted by Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria. The new names now appear on Florabase (the website for the Western Australian Herbarium) and in the Australian Plant Census, which is the main online reference for names of Australian native plants.

In most cases the new name carries the same epithet as the old e.g. *Dryandra sessilis* has become *Banksia sessilis* but where a name is already taken in the *Banksia* genus changes have occurred e.g. *Dryandra quercifolia* becomes *Banksia heliantha*, *Dryandra praemorsa* becomes *Banksia undata*.

Banksias are woody plants that range from prostrate shrubs to trees up to 25m in height.

Each flower head consists of many flowers number up to several thousand in the case of *Banksia grandis* and less than one hundred in *Banksia cuneata*.

All banksias depend on animals for pollination. Most are pollinated by birds others are pollinated by mammals such as honey possums.

Fire Response - A number of species are killed by fire and regenerate from seed. The others have the ability to reshoot from epicormic buds, roots or a lignotuber.

The fruits of banksias (called follicles) are hard and woody and are often grouped together to resemble cones. The fruits protect the seeds from foraging animals and from fire. In many species the fruits will not open until they have been burnt or completely dried out.



Banksia cuneata

History

- 40 - 50 million years ago Banksias were present in something akin to their modern form.
- First sighted by Europeans and specimens gathered in late April 1770 at Botany Bay.
- Banksias were being grown in heated glasshouses in England as early as 1788.
- Carl Linnaeus Jnr. names the species *Banksia*, commemorating Joseph Banks in 1782. Banks had already been honoured by the botanists J. R & J. G Forster in 1775 with a genus of the same name. This was subsequently renamed *Pimelea* by Banks and Linnaeus' name was officially conserved in 1940.

Who was Joseph Banks?

Joseph Banks 1743 - 1820 was a naturalist, botanist and patron of the natural sciences and a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Banks was born in Argyll Street, Soho, the son of William Banks, a rich Lincolnshire country squire and member of the House of Commons, and his wife Sarah, daughter of William Bate.

His father had died in 1761, so when Banks reached the age of 21, he inherited the large estate of Revesby Abbey, in Lincolnshire, becoming the local squire and magistrate, and dividing his time between Lincolnshire and London. From his mother's house in Chelsea, he kept up his interest in science by attending the Chelsea Physic Garden of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries and the British Museum, where he met Daniel Solander. He began to make friends among the scientific men of his day and to correspond with Carl Linnaeus, whom he came to know through Solander. As Banks's influence increased, he became an adviser to King George III and urged the monarch to support voyages of discovery to new lands, hoping to indulge his own interest in botany. Along with Solander collected extensively during Cook's voyage in Sth America, Tahiti and New Zealand before reaching Australia. The specimens accounting for about 100 new genera and 1300 new species.

The Dutch were most probably the first Europeans to encounter *Banksia*. The Dutch first made landfall in Australia near Weipa in 1606 and subsequently did so again in 1616 when Dirk Hartog landed on an island off Shark Bay, Western Australia.

The Dutch were following trade routes to the Dutch East Indies and without accurate longitude measurements ships were lost or encountered the Western Australian coast.

Willem de Vlamingh on a mission to find survivors from an earlier missing ship in January 1697 ventured up the Swan River. Some specimens of flora and fauna were collected. Only a few survive and *Banksia* is not among them.

1770 ; Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander (See glass window right) collect several *Banksia* species at Botany Bay - *Banksia ericifolia*, *B. integrifolia* & *B. serrata*. *Banksia dentata* was collected in the vicinity of the Endeavour River.

Banksia serrata was first collected at Botany Bay on 29 April 1770, by Sir Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander, naturalists on the British vessel HMS Endeavour during Lieutenant (later Captain) James Cook's first voyage to the Pacific Ocean.

The species was not published until April 1782, when Carolus Linnaeus the Younger described the first four *Banksia* species in his Supplementum Plantarum, commenting that it was the showiest species in the genus.

1791 - Archibald Menzies, naturalist on Captain Vancouver's round-the-world voyage (1791-1795) was the first to collect *Banksias* in the south-west of Western Australia. (Albany) Among the specimens were *Banksia sessilis*, *Banksia grandis* and *Banksia praemorsa*.

1792 - Jacques Labillardiere as part of D'Entrecasteaux's expedition made further collections near Esperance.

Picnic Cove - *B. speciosa*, *B. repens*, *B. nivea*

Robert Brown - Between 1801 and 1802 he collected 26 new species, thirteen of which he placed into a new genus which he named *Dryandra*. Robert Brown - *B. coccinea*, (right) *B. attenuata*, *B. nutans*, *B. quercifolia*, *B. paludosa*, *B. aemula*. Some of these were probably collected by Peter Good, the gardener and Brown's assistant on the Investigator.

William Baxter - Between 1824 and 1829 collects nine new species of *Banksia*. *B. cylei*, *B. baxter*, *B. brownii*, *B. gardneri*, *B. baueri*

Photo: *B. coccinea*



5.

James Drummond - From the late 1830's to 1852 collects twelve new species of Banksia.

B. prionotes, *B. tricuspis*, *B. hookeriana*, *B. sceptrum*

Charles Gardner - from 1926 to 1966 collected 6 new species of Banksia. *B. violacea*, *B. audax*, *B. laricina*, *B. pilostylis*

Banksias introduced into cultivation in England in from 1788. These plants were grown in pots in glasshouses. In the early 1800's Banksia (*marcescens*) *marginata* was grown in the garden of the Empress Josephine at Malmaison. By the early 1840's about 61 species of Banksia (27 *Dryandras*) had been in cultivation in the UK.

From the late 1830's the popularity of Banksias was on the wane, partly due to shifts in public tastes and partly due to the change in that manner in which glasshouses were heated. Formerly heated by wood or coal fired stoves the heating was changed to steam or hot water which produced a humid atmosphere unsuitable for the growing of Banksias.

Indigenous Uses

The flower was soaked in water to create a sweet drink or in some cases sucking the nectar directly from the flower. The flower spike or seed cones were used as fire sticks.

Medicine - In south-west WA the bark was burnt and there fine, white ash was mixed with the resin of the marri tree. This was used to treat diarrhoea and for the control of intestinal worms.

Arts and Crafts

The images of the classic banksia flower have been used in many different media within the arts and crafts. This includes their depiction on utilitarian objects such as stamps and coins to objects of great beauty and worth such as paintings, ceramics, mosaics and glass.



Moorcroft vase



Glasswork by Mandy Loudon



Banksias for the Garden

Banksias make great garden plants as there is plant of every size from prostrate forms to trees to suit every situation. Here are some species that grow well in the sandbelt region of Melbourne

Prostrate Banksias

- *Banksia blechnifolia*
- *Banksia petiolaris*
- *Banksia repens*
- *Banksia gardneri*

Small Shrubs to 2 metres

- *Banksia spinulosa* (numerous cultivars)
- *Banksia polycephala* (formerly *Dryandra polycephala*)
- *Banksia ericifolia* - 'Little Eric'
- *Banksia formosa* (formerly *Dryandra formosa*) (right)



6.

Large Shrubs to 3 -5 metres

- *Banksia ericifolia*
- *Banksia aemula*
- *Banksia serrata*
- *Banksia marginata*

Trees to 5 metres plus

- *Banksia integrifolia*
- *Banksia occidentalis*

Cultivation Requirements

- Full to partial sun Good drainage
 - Only low phosphorous fertilisers should be used
 - Prune lightly as required
- Propagate by seed or cutting



Banksia mosaic at King's Park, Perth



Art work of Celia Rosser on stamps issued 2018

SPECIMEN TABLE

Although there's not as many flowers about in the gardens, and there weren't many of us at the meeting, we had a good looking collection shown tonight. Here are some:



Thryptomene stenophylla (John)



Correa (possibly pink form of *C. alba* – Marj)

7.



Eucryphia wilkei
(John)



Micromyrtus leptocalyx (Mandy)



Correa reflexa "Brisbane Ranges form" (Mandy)



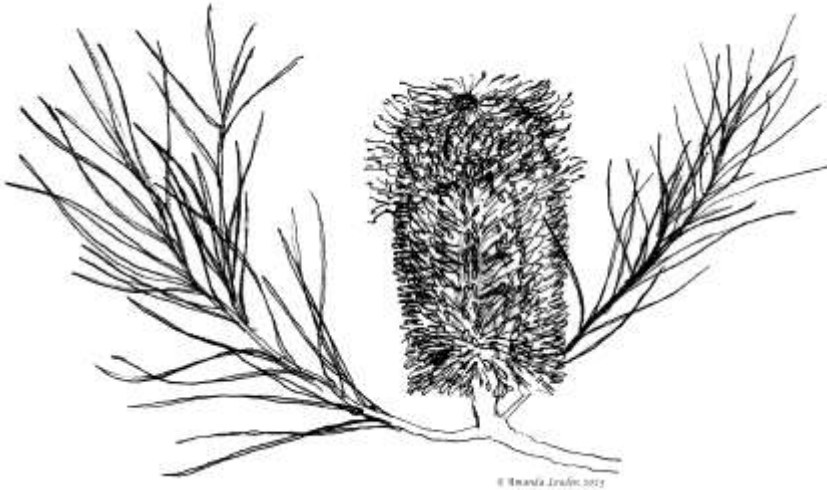
Thryptomene denticulata (John)



Part of the specimen table
(*Grevillea* "Peaches & Cream", *Acacia* *gldiiformis*? *Callistemon viminalis*, *Epacris longiflora*, *Banksia spinulosa*, etc)

Pick of the Bunch May 2023
Banksia spinulosa Sm. Hairpin Banksia
 Specimen grown by Marj Seaton

Banksia spinulosa is a variable shrub either with or without a lignotuber 1 - 7m high x 1 - 3m wide. Several varieties are recognised and these are sometimes treated as species. The varieties are var. *spinulosa*, var. *cunninghamii*, var. *neoanglica* and var. *collina*. Only *B. spinulosa* var. *cunninghamii* is found in Victoria. It does not possess a lignotuber. The other varieties along with var. *cunninghamii* are found in NSW and Qld.



The flower spikes or inflorescences are 10 - 20 cm in length and are produced from autumn through winter. The styles may be yellow, maroon or black. They attract both insects and nectar feeding birds.

In cultivation it requires a sunny to part shade position in acid or pH neutral soils with good drainage. Soils that are alkaline can lead to yellowing foliage and poor growth. In an open position it will form a rounded shrub but if grown in too much shade or in competition

with the other plants it will become spindly. It is moderately frost and drought hardy.

There are numerous cultivars available, they include 'Birthday Candles', 'Coastal Cushion', 'Stumpy Gold', 'Cherry Candles' and 'Honey Pots' to name a few.

Propagation is from seed or cuttings. Cultivars will need to be propagated from cuttings as plants may not come true from seed.

The genus *Banksia* contains c.173 species (the genus *Dryandra* was merged with *Banksia*). All but one, *B. dentata*, are endemic. *Banksia dentata* also occurs in Papua New Guinea, Irian Jaya and the Aru Islands. It is also the only *Banksia* that is common to eastern and western Australia, occurring in WA, NT and Qld.

The generic name honours Sir Joseph Banks (1743 - 1820), 18th century naturalist and patron of the natural sciences. The species name *spinulosa*, from the Latin, spinulosus, meaning bearing spines, probably in reference to the leaf tips.

NEXT MEETING

Supper: Mandy Loudon (please bring some milk)

Write-up: Marj Seaton

EVENTS DIARY

June Norm and Marj Seaton: Silo Art, Part 2

July

August AGM and members' slides

September Speaker: Chris Larkin – "Hakeas"

APS Victoria

3 June - COMM to be hosted by APS Cardinia (upgrade of APS Wilson Park) at Deep Creek Reserve, 62 Cameron Way, Pakenham. Function Room 10am

23 & 24 - September COMM hosted by APS Grampians. Week long activities followed by Pomonal Native Flower Show on Sept 30 and Oct 1, Pomonal Hall.

24 & 25 June – APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

22 & 23 July – Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

2 September – APS Cardinia Region Group Plant Sale at Akoonah Park, Princes Hwy, Berwick, from 9 am to 3 pm. To be located in the undercover fruit and vegetable market area.

- APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00 am - 4.00 pm both days.

16 & 17 September – 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.

23 & 24 September – APS Bendigo Flower Show, Victory College, Kairn Road, Strathdale (Bendigo).
– APS Grampians host APS Vic September COMM.

30 September & 1 October – APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

7 October – APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. 9 am to 4 pm. Flower show, native plant sales, basket weaving display, floral art and painting sales.

14 October – APS Mitchell Plant Expo and Sale. Wallan Community Centre, Bentinck Street, Wallan. From 9 am to 3 pm.

21 & 22 October - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.

- Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Website: rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au

PHOTO GALLERY

Marj was recently in Bendigo and visited the Bendigo Botanic Gardens. The gardens are in two distinct parts – a traditional heritage garden, lots of lawn and mostly exotics - and the Future Garden which is a new, modern construction with wide paths, and a large native collection. Here are a few shots, taken in late autumn.



10.



Norm planted a *Hakea petiolaris* on his nature strip. It's doing well and flowering just now.



11.

Seatons paid a recent visit to the new Seaford Banksia Arboretum. We met Aaron who does a lot of work there, including mowing and taking down parts of an old pine tree that might fall on visitors. The plants are still very small – losses of course, but most are living and some are thriving. The bigger lot (of two being planted) is bowl shaped with hilly sides leading up to Seaford Road. Getting water up the hills must be trying. An adventurous project!



PROMOTIONS



Held at the Melbourne Conference and Exhibition Centre, the conference topics include Gardens for Wildlife and Habitat, Restoration and Revegetation of Wetlands, Grasslands and Verges, Care for the Rare, Insects and Biodiversity, Garden Design, Indigenous Food Plants and many more.

Tours before and after will go to Victoria's best wildflower areas and day excursions will feature new botanic gardens, private gardens and wild areas.

Register your interest through the APS Vic website: <https://apsvic.org.au>

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**Cranbourne Growing Friends**

**PLANT SALE**

***Winter Sale 2023***

**Saturday 22, Sunday 23 July 2023 10am – 4pm**

**Near the kiosk, Australian Garden**

Grasses, climbers, border plants, ground covers

Small & large bushes, trees, plants for wildlife

Plant list available 1 week prior to sale – view on website: [www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

Eftpos available