



Dianella admixta

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY  
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

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**AUGUST 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:**

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

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 AUGUST NEWSLETTER IS 21<sup>st</sup> JULY\*\*\*\*\***

<u>Next Meeting</u>	<u>CONTENTS</u>
<p><b>Hughesdale Community Hall</b>  <b>Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads</b>  <b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August, 8pm</b>  <b>Annual General Meeting</b></p> <p>Annual Reports and Election of Office Bearers will take place, followed by a members vote on an Honorary Life Membership for John Thompson.</p> <p>The AGM will be followed by Members' Slides and specimen table then a sell-off and auction of some of our library books. Some will be free, others will be sold by gold coin donation, whilst a few may be auctioned if there are several people interested in them.</p> <p><b>Please get your slides to John a week before the meeting - USB or by email (as high resolution as possible).</b></p>	<p>Page 1. Next meeting (AGM)</p> <p>Page 2. Rainfall</p> <p>Membership renewal</p> <p>Pages 3,5 Daisies</p> <p>Page 6 Pick of the bunch</p> <p>Pages 6,7 July Specimen Table</p> <p>Page 8 Next meeting</p> <p>Pages 8,9 Macedon Snow gums Saved</p> <p>Page 9 Events Diary 2023/2024</p> <p>Page 10 Notice of AGM and nomination Form</p> <p>Page 11 Promotions</p>

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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	119.2								317.8
Highett	10.7	27.5	49.2	80	82	54.2							303.6
Hampton	10.15	23.34	31.46	98.75									163.70
Cranbourne South	7	29	49	79	95	84							343
Elsternwick	10	23	37.5	100	91								261.5
Ashburton	25.7	29.7	53.2	100.0	92.2								

\*\*\*\*\*MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL\*\*\*\*\*

Memberships were due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> July and you are requested 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 \$15 Singles \$10 Students \$5

Australian Plants \$20

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

There are instructions available immediately by clicking on the link.

To renew, you **must log in** using your email address 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 and you will need to give your name and membership number as a reference.

Look for **login** under renewals, do the login and proceed from there to fill in the details for your membership. Note that the default may be "Single" – you will need to click on the household button if that applies to you.

Review, then confirm (important) or, if using a credit card "contribution". If you have paid by credit card you should get confirmation straight away. If you are using Bank Transfer, do it asap after completing your membership renewal.

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.

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### **July Meeting - DAISIES**

Speaker: John Thompson

A Brief Overview. Botany, Discovery, Cultivation, Indigenous Uses and the Art & Crafts



#### Asteraceae - The Family

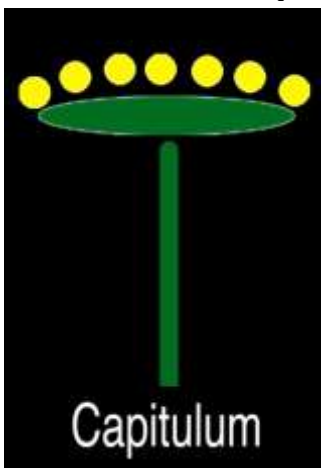
*Brachyscome microcarpa*

- Also known as Compositae.
- Found on every continent except Antarctica.
- Worldwide - c.1500 genera, c.23000 species.
- Australia - c.205 genera, c.1000 species.
- Mainly herbaceous but there are shrubs, vines and trees.
- Economically important as the family contains food plants such as lettuce and sunflowers.
- Species outside their range are often considered weedy or invasive.

Asteraceae is the largest family of flowering plants, with an estimated 1600+ genera and 24,000 species found worldwide (except Antarctica), and growing in most habitats. In Australia about 300 genera and 1417 species, the native taxa mainly in subfamilies Asteroideae (Tribes Astereae and Gnaphalieae). Asteraceae is the second most speciose family in Australia, exceeded only by the Myrtaceae (c. 89 genera and c. 1858 species) and rivalled only by the pea-flowered legumes (c. 140/1402) and Poaceae (c. 230/1300).

#### What is a Daisy?

- A daisy flower is a collection of small individual flowers (disc florets) often but not always surrounded by ray florets that are arranged around the central disc florets. These ray florets form the conspicuous 'petals' of a typical daisy flower.
- The flower is a composite inflorescence or capitulum that superficially resembles a single flower.



- The fruit is a cypsela with a fringe of hairs or pappus.
- The leaves are alternate or opposite, rarely whorled, simple to compound with stipules rarely present.

Capitulum - an inflorescence of sessile flowers borne on a flattened and expanded portion of the inflorescence axis.

Cypsela - a dry single seeded fruit formed from a double ovary of which only one develops into a seed.

Stipule - small appendage often in pairs at the base of a leaf petiole (leaf stem).

### Impostors!

There are a few plants that have the name 'daisy' included in their common name. These are the Rottneist Daisy or Blue Lace Flower (*Trachymene coerulea*) that is a member of the Araliaceae family and has its flowers arranged in an umbel and the Albany Daisy (*Actinodium cunninghamii*) which is a member of the Myrtaceae family and has its flowers arranged in a flattened raceme. Flannel flowers (*Actinotus helianthi*) are also sometimes mistaken as daisies and are a member of the Apiaceae family that has its flowers arranged in an umbel.

### European Collection

The earliest known collections of members of the Asteraceae family in Australia were by William Dampier in 1699 at Shark Bay, Western Australia. These included a *Brachyscome* (now renamed as *Roebuckiella cheilocarpa*) and an *Olearia* sp.

Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander added to the collection of Australian Asteraceae in 1770 with collections at Botany Bay including *Senecio linearifolius*.

### History of Cultivation

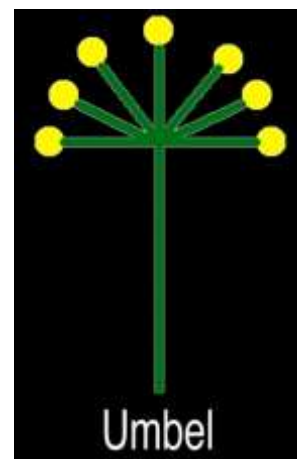
- *Xerochrysum bracteatum* was introduced into cultivation in the late 18th century.
- German horticulturist Herren Ebritsch obtained material of *Xerochrysum bracteatum* and developed a range of colourful hybrids, possibly using crosses between Australian and South African forms. These hybrids are still a popular annual, grown in many countries including Australia.
- *Xerochrysum bracteatum* - Grown by the Empress Josephine at Malmaison and later by Napoleon on his island of exile, St. Helena.
- Other species grown in Europe from the early 1800's include the Common Everlasting (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*), right, Golden Everlasting (*Waitzia acuminata*), Pink and White Everlasting or Rosy Sunray (*Rhodanthe chlorocephalum* ssp. *rosea*).
- Australian gardeners offered seed in the mid 1860's - *Acroclinium roseum* syn. *Rhodanthe chlorocephalum* ssp. *rosea*, *Ammobium alatum*, *Helichrysum bracteatum* syn. *Xerochrysum bracteatum*.



### Utilisation

Indigenous Uses - The use of the tubers of *Microseris lanceolata* (Murnong or Yam Daisy). These edible tubers were once a staple diet of the Indigenous peoples of south-east Australia.

- Cut Flowers - a number of Asteraceae species are used in the commercial cut flower trade. Species include *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, *Ixodia achilleoides*, *Cassinia leptoccephala* and 'everlastings' such as *Rhodanthe* sp., *Schoenia filifolia* and *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, these making excellent dried flowers.
- Horticulture / Nursery Trade - a number of Asteraceae species are popular garden or potted plants here in Australia and overseas.
- Tourism - Mass displays of 'wildflowers' predominantly daisies are an important selling point to tourists particularly in Western Australia.
- Coastal Revegetation - Species such as *Olearia axillaris* and *Leucophyta brownii* are widely used in revegetation projects in coastal areas.
- Arts & Crafts - Daisies have been depicted on Australian stamps in 1975 (*Helichrysum thomsonii* now *Cremnothamnus thomsonii*), 1986 (*Helipterum*) *Leucochrysum albicans* - Mount Buffalo Sunray & *Celmisia asteliifolia* - Silver Snow Daisy, 2000 *Xerochrysum bracteatum*, 2002 *Microseris lanceolata* - Murnong.



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- The timber from the Musk Daisy (*Olearia argophylla*) a daisy which can reach 10 metres in height can be used as a veneer or to make small ornamental pieces of furniture.
- Daisies have also been depicted in a number of different media, in linocuts by Margaret Preston or in decorated hand blown glass by our very own Amanda Louden.

#### Growing Daisies

- Daisies will grow in all types of soils from sandy soils to heavy clays.
- pH ideally of 6 – 7.
- Most require good drainage.
- Some species will grow in boggy conditions e.g. *Brachyscome scapigera* & *Xerochrysum palustre*.
- There are annuals and perennials.
- Size ranges from a few centimetres (*Myriocephalus rhizocephalus*) to 10 metres (*O. argophylla*).
- Full to partial sun aspect is required.
- Prune as required to maintain desired shape and remove dead growth.
- Propagate from seed or cuttings.
- Fertilisers can be used if required.
- Can be grown in the garden or in containers.
- Can be dried and used in floral arrangements.

#### Pests and Diseases

The three main pests that predate on daisies are Caterpillars, Snails and Slugs and Aphids. All can be dealt with by physical removal of the pest without the need for pesticides.

Powdery mildew can be an issue on larger leaved daisies such as olearias and if severe can be treated with a fungicide such as Mancozeb or organically by spraying with a solution of baking soda.

#### Daisies for the Garden

Some of the daisies that grow well in our sandy soils are;

*Ammobium alatum*

*Brachyscome Sultifidi*

*Cassinia leptocephala*

*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*

*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*

*Olearia astroloba*

*Olearia pimelioides*

*Olearia tenuifloia*

*Olearia tomentosa*

*Ozothamnus diosmifolius*

*Ozothamnus obcordatus*

*Rhodanthe anthemoides*

*Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *Rosea*

*Xerochrysum bracteatum*

*Xerochrysum viscosum*



*Olearia pimelioides*



*Rhodanthe chlorocephala* ssp. *Rosea*



*Xerochrysum bracteatum*

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### **Pick of the Bunch July 2023**

*Hakea lehmannianna* Meisn. Blue Hakea  
Specimen grown by Amanda Loudon.

*Hakea lehmannianna* is a small, often sprawling shrub from southwest Western Australia. It grows in sand, sandy loam or gravelly soils from York to Albany and across to Ravensthorpe. It has terete leaves to 60mm long. The pale blue flowers are produced in the leaf axils. Flowering is from June to August. The fruit is covered with small prickly protuberances.



In cultivation it has proved to be a hardy shrub, albeit rather slow growing. A sunny or partial sun position with good drainage is best. It will cope with most soil types. Propagation is from seed or cuttings.

*Hakea* 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*, *Grevillea*, *Isopogon*, *Lomatia*, *Persoonia*, *Stenocarpus*, *Telopea* and *Xylomelum*. The genus *Hakea* is endemic to Australia with c.150 species with the greatest number being found in south-west Western Australia.

Hakeas are named in honour of Baron Christian Ludwig von Hake (1745-1818), a German patron of botany. The specific name is after G. Christian Lehmann, editor of *Plantae Preissianae*, the publication in which this and many other species of Australian plants were first described, based upon the collections of Ludwig Preiss.

### **JULY SPECIMEN TABLE**

The usual suspects were there with a surprising variety of species – spring must be around the corner!

Mandy was first and offered *Acacia elata* with its winged stems and leaves. It is very prickly and grows up to a



height of 3m. Ivory Curl, *Buckinghamia celsissima*, (left) is growing in a shady spot, is not watered and blooms from summer to autumn. The flowers are attractive to all manner of insects. Monash Council regularly using this plant as a street tree. Mandy's *Senna artemisioides*, silver leaf form, flowers for a very long time. It is a shrub to about 1m and self seeds.

Two pieces that received a lot of attention were the

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blue hakea, *H. lehmanniana*, (above left) and *Eucalyptus preissiana* (right). Mandy's hakea is about 20 years old, in a shady area, is not watered and is about 0.5m x 0.5m. Chosen as the Plant of the Month). It has needle-shaped prickly leaves and blue flowers during the winter. *Eucalyptus preissiana* is a small eucalypt with greyish leathery leaves and large lemon-yellow flowers which last for months. Because of the size of the flowers and buds, Mandy has to prune it to stop branches breaking.

Marj featured plants that, though not unusual, seem to be in flower a bit earlier than usual or are still



flowering after a couple of months eg *Chorizema cordatum* x *varium*, *Epacris longiflora*, *Thyromene saxicola* and *Micromyrtus ciliata*. *Alyogyne huegellii* (left) is a popular bush – Marj's has blue/purple flowers with white centres, unlike the frequently seen "West Coast Gem" which is all purple. The bush should be pruned regularly – don't wait for flowering to finish as it doesn't! Cuttings can then be taken and should strike well enough.

John's specimens started with *Acacia prominens*. This grows to be a very big tree – maybe 18 metres, has lemon yellow spherical flowers. It is from north of Sydney and does well in Melbourne. Possums ate all of the leaves for some years but haven't caused problems recently.

*Gastrolobium lanceolatum*, Swan River pea, has discoloured leaves and red flowers, and scrambles through other surrounding plants. Attractive to spinebills. *Guichenotia macrantha*, has light coloured papery bracts and tiny flowers which last a long time - they hang down like Thomasias. From north of Perth, it is a narrow shrub. A very attractive pink flowered Phebalium (right), sold as *P. nottii* but may not be, grows to 1m x 1m and is covered in the pink flowers. Needs good drainage and mustn't be mollycoddled – doesn't seem to like too much watering. John's plant is now in semi-shade.



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**NEXT MEETING**

**Supper:** Ruth Evans (please bring some milk)

**Write-up:** Chris Bain, (AGM, Marj Seaton Monthly Meeting)

The following report came to us via APS Victoria and may be of interest to some of our members.

**MACEDON SNOW GUMS SAVED**

Back in January we heard about a plan to remove a considerable number of Snow Gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) from Macedon Regional Park's Memorial Cross. The reason? To create a better view of Melbourne.

With their striking multi-coloured bark, Snow Gums are revered for their beauty and tenacity. In Macedon they're part of a Significant Landscape Overlay, a protection given to places with unique values 'for current and future generations'.

Now I reckon you're like us and would say that the Snow Gums *are* the view. So we worked with locals and nature groups to get to the bottom of this nonsensical idea. There were discussions with the local council, horticulturalists and Parks Victoria. It felt like we were making progress and not as many of the trees would be axed as originally planned.

So I was pretty excited when the Macedon Ranges Shire Council voted to oppose an application to remove the Snow Gums (and other native vegetation). Meaning every single Snow Gum would stay.



I live in Central Victoria with my little family on the edge of the Wombat Forest. After a long career in film, I decided to spend my time working on social and environmental justice. I've worked on all sorts of nature-related issues – everything from toxic soils to building hospital rooms at a wildlife rescue centre. Then I enrolled in the Nature Stewards education course. The experience really broadened my horizons and I haven't looked back.



I'm hugely passionate about our much-loved forest becoming part of the new Wombat Lerderderg National Park. I love nothing more than meandering through the woods with my son and partner, constantly discovering and observing new and wonderful things.

Sometimes these matters seem hard – they can be overwhelmingly complex and disheartening.

But the Macedon Snow Gum victory was inspiring. It showed me that when communities work together to help preserve and protect our wonderful natural world, really good stuff can happen.

In the work we do, it's really important to remember how many people care for our living wonders, and that when push comes to shove, how many more are willing to do what they can to protect them.

Ben Gill, Nature Campaigner

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## EVENTS DIARY

### APS South East Melbourne

<b>August 1</b>	AGM, Book Sale and members' slides
<b>September</b>	Speaker: Chris Larkin – "Hakeas"
<b>October</b>	TBA
<b>November</b>	TBA

### APS Victoria

**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.

**9 & 10 September** - 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. APS Vic AGM

**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](http://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au)

### 2024

**20 April** - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale

**14 & 15 September** – APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo

**30 Sept – 4 Oct** – ANPSA Biennial conference in Melbourne hosted by APS Vic

**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the AGM for APS South East Melbourne Region Inc will be held at **8pm on Tuesday 1st August 2023** at the Hughesdale Community Hall, corner of Poath and Kangaroo Roads, Hughesdale.

- Agenda items: 1. Presentation of Reports by the President, Secretary and Treasurer
2. Election of Office Bearers for 2023/2024.
3. Election of Honorary Life Member

The following positions are declared vacant: Leader, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Members (3), Newsletter Editor.

If you are able to nominate for one of the above positions, please complete the form below. Nominations can also be made at the meeting.

The AGM will be followed by our regular members' slide night. Please get your slides to John in the week before the meeting. There will also be the opportunity to acquire some of the books from our library. Cash or cheque on the night please.

**NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS**

**I wish to nominate** .....

**For the position of** .....

**Nominator:** ..... **(Name and signature)**

**Secunder:** ..... **(Name and signature)**

**Date:** .....

## 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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See: [rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au/2023/05/acacia-artwork-to-be-displayed-at-cranbourne/](https://rbgfrienscranbourne.org.au/2023/05/acacia-artwork-to-be-displayed-at-cranbourne/)