



Dianella admixta

AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

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OCTOBER 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)

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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 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER IS 21st SEPTEMBER*******

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<p style="text-align: center;">Hughesdale Community Hall Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads Tuesday October 8pm Speaker: Peter Rogers Topic: Stirling Ranges, WA</p> <p>Our speaker this month will be Peter Rogers who is an avid field naturalist and Australian plant enthusiast. He is a long time member of both the Maroondah APS and Ringwood Field Naturalists.</p> <p>Peter will be talking about one of Western Australia's gems, The Stirling Ranges. They are the only major mountain range in southern Western Australia. The ranges have an abundance of wildflowers and bird life. Over 1500 species of plant occur here with 87 endemic species.</p> <p>So be sure to welcome Peter with your attendance and marvel in the natural beauty of one of Australia's most outstanding areas of biodiversity.</p>	<p>Page 1: Next Meeting</p> <p>Page 2: Rainfall totals November Outing</p> <p>Pages 2,3 Sept. Meeting</p> <p>Pages 3,4: Specimen Table</p> <p>Page 5: Pick of the Bunch</p> <p>Page 6: Next meeting Events Diary</p> <p>Page 7: Promotions</p> <p>Pages 8,9: Photo Gallery</p>

BOOK SALE

Next meeting will be your last opportunity to pick up remaining books from our library sell-off for a gold coin. They will be disposed of after the October meeting.

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	73.7	28.8	37					457.3
Highett	10.7	27.5	49.2	80	82	54.2	20.7	23.2					347.9
Hampton	10.15	23.34	31.46	98.75									163.70
Cranbourne South	7	29	49	79	95	84	40	40					423
Elsternwick	10	23	37.5	100	91	54	23						338.5
Ashburton	25.7	29.7	53.2	100.0	92.2								

NOVEMBER OUTING:

We will meet at the Chelsea Garden in Olinda at 11am – at the site of the old Olinda golf Course, 24 Georgian road, Olinda. **(Mel: 66 J7)**. We will not lunch at the gardens as the Vireya café's offerings are not of a standard we would prefer, so a booking will be made at Dudley's in Olinda once we ascertain how many people are likely to want lunch. Please let Marj Seaton know your preference at the October meeting. Carpooling is suggested.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Speaker: Chris Larkin

Topic: Hakeas

Chris introduced her talk with a photo of the specimen table at APS Melton-Bacchus Marsh. As she commented, her talk there was bit like "Carrying Coals to Newcastle" as the Melton group specialises in growing hakeas. Barb Pye is a well known propagator of this species.

Hakeas are named after the German botanist Baron von Hake and are members of the Proteaceae family. The type species is *H. teretifolia* first described in 1788.

Three books are recommended: "*Hakeas*" by Ivan Holliday, The "*Encyclopaedia of Australian Plants*" by Elliot and Jones and "*Flora of Melbourne*" by Marilyn Bull.

150 different hakeas are mentioned by Wikipedia but Paul Kennedy includes 169 species and subspecies in his new (yet to be published) hakea book.

Hakeas are endemic to Australia (found nowhere else) and are found in all states of Australia, though mostly from the south-west of WA. They grow in a wide range of soils, generally acidic woodlands or open forest. The main difference between hakeas and grevilleas is in the follicle (seed pods). There are only ever two seeds per pod and a sheath protects the seed. Plants are bisexual.

There are mainly four shapes of flowers: sea urchin, open and grevillea like, pokers, and flowers that "sit on top of each other". Flowers can be white, cream, pink or red – the one exception being *H. lehmannia*, the blue hakea. (See our September newsletter for a description of this).

Leaf shapes vary from broad, linear, needle-like, very prickly. *H. Protrata* is probably the most prickly! Some can be grown purely for their leaves eg *H. Victoria*, *H. cuculata*, *H. brownie*, *H. undulata*. Chris is fond of *H. elliptica* because of the bronze new leaves and the way the leaf venation shows clearly when backlit. Hakeas can also be identified using the cross-section of the leaves.

Locals: our local hakeas like damp situations, have needle-like foliage and tend to grow in the east, north east or south east. The four local species are:

Hakea decurrens ssp physocarpa –one of the *H. sericea* group



3.

Hakea nodosa (right)

Hakea ulicina

Hakea teretifolia ssp *hirsuta*

Chris then discussed some of the more commonly sought hakeas eg *H. francisiana*, *H. bucculenta*, *H. pycnoneura*. The first of these can be difficult to distinguish, particularly because many available are actually hybrids. *H. bucculenta* has a strong mid-vein, a broom-like growth habit with possibly more needle-like foliage as we as having more orange or red flowers than *H. francisiana*.

Hybrids: there are more around than usually available commercially. Some of the common ones are:



H. Burrendong Beauty – a natural hybrid which flowers 3 times a year (left)

H. myrtoides – from WA and possibly one of the parents of Burrendong Beauty

H. laurina x *petiolaris* – flowers in June

H. multilineata x *invaginata* – is being developed by Bilby Blooms in NSW

Chris then went on to describe some of the hakeas she is growing in her own garden – about 30 species and she has grown another seven previously. The variety of shapes and colours in her slides was exceptional.

In conclusion she recommended they be grown in free draining acid soil with sun. Smaller ones recommended include *H. invaginata*, *H. grammatophylla*, *H. neurophylla*. Watch out for the weedy one *H. salicifolia*. Pruning can be beneficial.

A great talk, thanks Chris.

SPECIMEN TABLE

Spring has sprung! Our table was loaded with lots of different species in many colours from five contributors. Mandy offered a pot of *Libertia paniculata* (right) – a tough tussocky type of plant but with a small white flower. It divides readily, grows in shady moist conditions. It was then put up with the raffle plants.

Hakea purpurea was next – she has previously cut it to ground level and is now up to the eaves. Grows better in some shade and needs pruning regularly *Gynatrix pulchella* is a small tree with creamy white flowers. Male and female on different trees. Grows best in some shade and moist conditions. Grows in the Valley Reserve in Waverley. Her small leaf form of *Acacia glaucoptera* is about 20+ years old, 2.5 – 3m wide and about 2m high. Prunes very well. The delicate flowers of *Lomandra patens* are offset by thin, grey tough leaves. Forms a big clump. The winged stems of *Acacia alata*, grey *Senna artemisioides*, a *prostanthera* and *Philothea myoporoides* completed Mandy's collection.



4.



Gillian brought in a pot of white flowering Dendrobium orchids that she acquired at the Waverley orchid show as well as a well grown *Kunzea baxteri* with many striking red bottlebrush type flowers.



Chris Larkin added some of her talk's specimen

flowers to the table (right, after Mick took them home and put them in a vase), including *Hakeas bucculenta* and *francisiana* as well as *Grevillea crithmifolia* which is a tough, low growing shrub with delicate white flowers.



Marj's specimens included *Astralasia hexapetala* (left) with its profusion of lemon flowers and grey leaves, a long lived *Epacris longifolia*, *Daviesia latifolia* which has tiny yellow and red pea flowers on the ends of the stems, *Pultenaea gunnii*, another pea also grown from seed, purple flowering *Olearia homolepis* and *Coronidium elatum* (right). This



last self-seeds readily, grows to just under a metre high and has white flowers with yellow centres, ageing to black – a good filler plant.

Lasiopetalum discolor was John's first cutting. Tough, widely distributed around coastal Vic, SA and WA, it has pink flowers (actually calices) through spring and summer and grows as a low spreading bush. *Thomasia triphylla* has the typical habit of its



pink/purple flowers forming clumps which face downward. *Cassinia leptcephala* (left) has long thin leaves and a bitter lemon flat-topped flower. It grows to about 1 – 1.5m high. John has had mixed success striking it from cuttings. *Labichea lanceolata* ssp *brevifolia* (right) comes from WA, has pungent (ie sharp!) leaves and bright yellow, small flowers. It grows particularly well around granite rocks. Finally, the leaves (phyllodes) of *Acacia urophylla* show pretty venation against the light, comes from WA and grows



to about 2m x 2m. It was chosen as our Plant of the Month.

5.

Pick of the Bunch September 2023

Acacia urophylla Benth.

Specimen grown by John Thompson

Acacia urophylla is an erect, slender shrub to 1 - 3 metres tall, growing not too far from the coast from just to the north of Perth to the west of Albany in Western Australia. It is often found along watercourses or other damp locations growing in lateritic¹ soils as an understorey shrub. The phyllodes are prominently veined. The flowers can be yellow or cream in globular heads and occur between August and November.



A. urophylla will grow in most well

drained soils in a sunny or partially sunny aspect. Supplementary watering over summer keeps the plant healthy and helps prevent the dieback of some branches in times of water stress. Propagation is from seed that requires pretreatment (scarification - damaging of the hard outer seed coat or pouring very hot, not boiling water, over the seeds and leaving to soak for 12 - 24 hours.)

Acacia is a member of the Fabaceae family commonly known as the legume, pea, or bean family, a large and economically important family of flowering plants. The group is the third largest land plant family, behind only the Orchidaceae and Asteraceae, with 730

genera and over 19,400 species. The genus *Acacia* consists of about 1070 species mostly occurring in Australia.

The name, *Acacia*, comes from 'Akakia' a name given to an Egyptian species (*A. arabica*). It is derived from the Greek, *akis*; a sharp point. The specific name, *urophylla*, is from the Greek, *oura*, meaning tail and *phylon*, leaf, referring to the tip of the phyllode.

The common name of wattle is an old Anglo-saxon word for interwoven flexible rods. Early settlers used the branches of a local tree they called 'black wattle', to form the walls of their dwellings, which were then plastered over with mud in a technique known as 'wattle and daub'. The tree they used was not a wattle but one with similar flowers, *Callicoma serratifolia* and from this association the name 'wattle' was adopted for all Australian acacias.

1. Lateritic soils are those that are rich in iron and aluminium.



6.

NEXT MEETING

SUPPER: Marj Seaton (please bring milk)

WRITE-UP: John Thompson

EVENTS DIARY

APS South East Melbourne

October Peter Rogers –“Stirling Ranges”

November 18th Visit to Philip Johnson’s Chelsea Garden in Olinda. Meet at 11am at the garden (old Olinda Golf Course, 24 Georgian Road, Olinda (**Mel 66, J7**) Lunch afterwards at Dudley’s in Olinda.

December 5th Christmas Break-up. Members’ Slides, plants for sale (gold coin).

APS Victoria

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: rbgfrienscranbourne.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

Seen at Yarragon – toilet block art:



7.

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>



Grampians Celebration

A reminder that APS Grampians is hosting the **APS Victoria Committee of Management Meeting** and **AGM** on the 23rd of September at Pomonal Hall.

In addition, they have organised a wonderful range of garden visits and excursions from Sunday 24th to Wednesday 27th September followed by their **Pomonal Flower Show** on 30th September and 1st October. See program below.

Please consider attending - it is not just for committee members. Accommodation is filling fast so book soon.

Here is a perfect opportunity to see the Grampians in all their spring glory and the chance to visit special areas such as the new WAMA indigenous garden with expert guides.

Program of Activities

Sat 23rd - 9:00am onwards, register at the Pomonal Hall, Pomonal 3381

10:00am APS Vic committee meeting will be held at the hall

Those not attending the meeting are free to do their own thing; Grampians members will be on hand to provide suggestions, as required

12:30pm Lunch for all at Pomonal Hall

2:00pm APS Vic AGM will be held at the hall

3:00pm Garden & Nursery Visits

5:30pm arrival for 6pm dinner at Barney's Bistro, Pomonal (3447 Ararat-Halls Gap Rd)

Sun 24th - 10:00am WAMA (Wildlife Arts Museum Australia <https://wama.net.au/>) site tour & lunch

2:00pm Neil & Wendy Marriott's Panrock Ridge for garden tour and afternoon tea

Mon 25th-Wed 27th

Following the COMM, APS Grampians will host free conducted bird walks,

Grampians flower walks & hikes and winery visits (Thursday & Friday we'll be setting up the show, where you're welcome to get involved!).

8.

You are welcome to do your own thing and Grampians members will be pleased to offer suggestions, such as nursery visits, trips to local lakes and wetlands, likely orchid locations, walking destinations for views, flowers, waterfalls and picnics.

The **Pomonal Flower Show** will be held on the 30th of September & 1st of October.

Registration

You need to register for the activities you want to attend by filling out an online form. The link to the form is below – copy and paste into your browser.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScb0lecVaKsFzS0f7Q5BNirKWLLaVr_ALT4rmhHAnMPaPJcPA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

Note that when you click on the link you will have to enter details on 4 pages. Click on Next button to move from the completed page to the next one and then finally click the Submit button. There is no pre-payment - you will pay when you arrive.

Finally, many of us miss the old style Quarterly Weekends as they were a great way of socialising with other APS members and seeing a different part of the country with expert guides. Here is your chance to experience one!!

PHOTO GALLERY

From Magnetic Island: - photos by Marj Seaton

1. Horseshoe Bay – beach casuarina



Photo Gallery contd.

The tall and the short:
Carbeen trees
– *Corymbia tessellaris*



Rattle pods –
Crotalaria retusa

