



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY  
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

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**MAY NEWSLETTER 2020**

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, February to December except November.

The venue is the Hughesdale Community Hall, Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads, Hughesdale (MEL 69 C7)

**Visitors are always very welcome.**

**COMMITTEE:**

- PRESIDENT: John Thompson [thomme@netspace.net.au](mailto:thomme@netspace.net.au)
- SECRETARY: Helen Appleby
- TREASURER: Norm Seaton [normarjs@bigpond.com](mailto:normarjs@bigpond.com)
- PUBLIC OFFICER: Helen Appleby
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Marj Seaton [normarjs@bigpond.com](mailto:normarjs@bigpond.com)
- APS VIC DELEGATE: Marj Seaton
- COMMITTEE: Amanda Loudon [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 JUNE newsletter is MAY 24th\*\*\*\*\***

**MAY MEETING**

Cancelled

Once again, we have to cancel our meeting due to the coronavirus. We were to be given a talk by John Thompson on the topic "Historical Collectors other than Banks and Solander". This will be postponed until we are able to hold meetings again.

**RAINFALL RECORDS for 2020**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Oakleigh South	98	90.5	77										215.5
Highett	114	76											190
Hampton	119												119
Cranbourne South	99	64	72										163
Caulfield Sth	127												127
Elsternwick	120	86	67.5										273.5

Some sad news. Shirley Carn passed away at home on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Shirley was an amazing gardener of Australian plants and opened her gardens often to the public. Her expertise will be sorely missed.

Also, Some members may have known Thelma Spice. Thelma had a particular interest in native orchids and was an active member of Friends of the Grange and Greenlink Sandbelt Nursery. Thelma died in her home on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

2.

As our April meeting was cancelled, there is no write-up of the meeting or specimen table plants. Instead we have a collection of photos submitted by Helen, Ivan, Mandy and Marj. Not much in the labelling line, but a pretty show nevertheless.

### **PHOTO GALLERY**

Following Helen's request that members send in some photos to show what 'we've' been doing whilst isolated, here are some of what was received:



*Left is a picture of Helen and Scott's Birthday Candles - it's the best they've been. Behind is a Lime Magik Acacia cognata. To the right at the back is a hedge of Correa baeuerlenii (Chef's hat). And to the front left is a low growing pea. Under the Acacia is a white-flowering Brachyscome multifida.*

*Ivan visited Maranoa Gardens and has produced quite a few shots as part of a virtual tour.*



*Acacia jibberdingensis*



*Calytrix fraseri*



*Correa lawrenceana*

3.



Sadly, Ivan had a fall whilst out walking earlier this month, just after these photos were taken at Maranoa. We wish him a speedy recovery.

4.



Here's a photo of a flowering street tree submitted by Helen: probably *Corymbia ficifolia*.



5.

Mandy's *Buckinghamia celcissima* (Ivory curl) is in full bloom:



Marj is hoping that someone can identify this plant she saw pre-lockdown. Found at Point Nepean and numerous other beaches on the primary dunes there. The plant looks like a westringia but the flowers definitely don't. Seems to grow about 1.5 -2m tall.



**GARDENING IN A TIME OF STRESS** – a general ramble through Marj and Norm's garden.

I feel so sorry for those of us who do not have a garden to play with whilst we are all locked away; after all there are only so many books we can read and videos we can watch before going stir crazy. Cabin fever is a problem which many in the northern hemisphere have to put up with each winter when the snows hit. My brother and his wife live in a very small house north of Toronto, and such are their winters. Rob is a hardy soul though and finds chopping wood a good outlet. Although a gardener, everything is dormant at that time so he's not able to do much else outside except watch the birds at their feeders.

In our garden, the rains are giving Norm some grass cutting to do, but the edges are a problem – we just can't keep up with them. The cumquat has a lot of fruit but there's not much demand for cumquat marmalade these days with the kids all adults and living elsewhere.

*Xerochrysums*, both "Lemon Monarch" and the brighter yellow "Dargan Hill Monarch" are still flowering their heads off. There is one remaining annual *Xerochrysum* from the APS Vic Plant-out last year and it has a multitude of orangey-red flowers – there's enough of the seed to last for some time and there are young ones cropping up in the drive so there'll be colour next year too. Two banksias are doing brilliantly – *B. praemorsa* and *B. "Birthday Candles"*. The praemorsa (not grafted), right, was bought as the wine red version. We had a couple of blooms last year with marginally wine red flowers but this year there are a lot of flowers and every spike is a lemony yellow colour. Weird.



Correas of course are a delight at this time of year. Tucker time "Dinner Bells" has a riot of bright green and red flowers. The local lime green one is flourishing and there are several small bright red versions just coming into flower – *C. "Brisbane Ranges"* and *C. "Fat Fred"* (left) are two worthy of mention. There's a pink and white version and a dark red one flourishing under a wedding bush. Even the flowers of the large *C. lawrenceana* are fat and healthy looking.



Otherwise, a few flowers persist on the *Scaevola nitida*, *Halganian cyanea* and *Epacris longiflora* and the native violets keep flowering. There are several plants whose foliage is adding some variation to the garden – *Eucalyptus "Moon Lagoon"* and *Goodenia albiflora* (below) are two. I have had some trouble with this *Eucalyptus* in the past – it seems quite

susceptible to leaf mining insects which I don't detect until the worst of the damage has been done. I gave up on *E. pulverulenta* for that reason some years ago – it was also a blue/grey foliaged plant. The goodenia hasn't had many flowers (white) since I put it into a big pot a couple of years ago, but the foliage is a bright blue/grey and stands out well against the green of the ground fern surrounding it.



Our eremophilas haven't minded the wetter weather – a few flowers there, mostly purple or pink. A *Prostanthera magnifica* is very pleasing – a rescue from somewhere. It was very poorly for some time, but has bounded away after the rain – no flowers at this time of year though.

Two biggish jobs completed are the heavy trimming of the Albany woolly bush away from the power lines with subsequent mulching of the branches, and cutting back the lemon tree in an attempt to ward off the gall wasps.

Birds are a bit scarce here. Butcher birds are the exception. It was great during the warmer weather sitting outside and listening to them warbling away - some competition with the magpies at times. The various parrots we usually hear have gone quiet and the noisy miners are tackling anything they think they can get a feed off. Despite all the low growing and sometimes prickly plants, there is just no way we can attract small birds with these greedy big birds around. We suspect they aren't in the area anymore anyway; certainly the golf course next door seems to have lost theirs.

With the recent rains, the climbers have put on a lot of new growth – too much really. The newish hedge trimmer has been doing good service.

As you can see, there has been a lot to do so 'self-isolation' has not yet been a problem. Hope you are all in good spirits and looking forward to the day when we can go to meetings and move freely again.

**PLANNED DIARY FOR 2020** (All subject to COVID19 Rules).

- May 5** John Thompson: "Historical Collectors other than Banks and Solander" **Cancelled.**
- June 2** Chris Long: "Boronia Oil" (?)
- July** TBA
- August** AGM and members' slides
- September** Dr Sandy Webb and Dr Marilyn Olliff: "The Jawbone Sanctuary"
- October** Marg and Ivan: "South Western Australia"
- November** Kuranda nursery and café.
- December** Christmas wind-up, "Clear the Decks" plant sale and members'

**Plant Sales and Shows 2020**

- May 2** APS Mornington Plant Sale, Seawinds, Arthurs Seat State Park, Purves Road, Arthurs Seat. 10am – 3:30pm
- July 25, 26** Cranbourne Gardens Friends Winter Plant Sale, 10am – 4pm

**NEXT MEETING (Whenever that is)**

Write-up: Marj Seaton

Supper: Amanda Loudon (Please bring milk)

Finally, two shots taken from a gondola of the chairlift at Arthurs Seat in March:

