



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

A00131128P

PO Box 8835 Armadale 3143

Email: aps.se.melb@gmail.com

Or semelb@apsvic.org.au

AUGUST 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
- SECRETARY: Helen Appleby
- TREASURER: Norm Seaton normarjs@bigpond.com
- PUBLIC OFFICER: Helen Appleby
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Marj Seaton normarjs@bigpond.com
- APS VIC DELEGATE: Marj Seaton
- COMMITTEE: Amanda Loudon 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 SEPTEMBER newsletter is AUGUST 26th*******

A big thank you to those members who contributed photos for this newsletter. With no meetings to write up it would be a thin effort without your input. Marj

AUGUST MEETING

Once again we are unable to have our regular meeting. This was to be our AGM so we will have to postpone that until some future time, possibly at our December Meeting, but who knows when really. John was also going to give us a rundown on early plant collectors so that too will have to be postponed.

We live in hope though that the September meeting will be possible but restrictions being as they are, there can be no guarantees. It could even be that we won't be meeting at all this year. Fingers crossed!

In the meantime, keep those weeds under control, perhaps plant some seeds or take some cuttings, but enjoy yourselves in the garden. Perhaps read a new book – I've just read "The Bird Way" by Jennifer Ackerman which gives an intriguing look into the habits of birds around the world with some emphasis on Australian birds. Recommended. Marj

RAINFALL RECORDS for 2020

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Oakleigh South	98	90.5	77	167.5	70.5	44.4							547.9
Highett	114	76	63	136.7	56								445.7
Hampton	119	75	57	132	48								431
Cranbourne South	99	64	72	167	89	49							540
Caulfield Sth	127	70.5	62.5	148	58	33							499
Elsternwick	120	86	67.5	141.5	74	38							527

2.

Fees for 2020/2021 are now due.

APS Vic has decided that they will waive fees, for 2020/21, for members who are suffering financial hardship due to Covid-19.

Application should be made via each District Group.

If this applies to you, would you please complete the form on page 8 of this newsletter and Norm will make application on your behalf.

*******Would all members please complete the form, regardless of how you pay so we have your current details*******

EUCALYPTUS

Mandy Loudon has written about the eucalyptus trees in her garden and these will feature over this and the next newsletter. If you are looking for a small eucalypt to grow in your garden, Mandy's collection may give you some inspiration. It is amazing what you can fit into an 'ordinary' house block if you are keen.

I am growing 21 different Eucalypts and one Angophora



In the nature strip I have three **E. woodwardii**. They have a white bloom on the wood and buds that contrast well with the bright yellow flowers. They grow better in a hotter drier environment (over the dividing range). I don't ever water them.



E. preissiana is doing very well. It has a spread of over 2m x 1 1/2m high. It's a prolific flowerer with shiny green buds that get a red hue just before they open. It has large yellow flowers.



At the lower (wetter) end of the nature strip I have two **E. macrandra**. They are dense trees with clusters of green flowers (over 50 per group) in summer. They are lignotuberous and I might have to cut one off at the ground and let it regrow as it is not growing straight because of shading, mostly from a neighbour's trees.



E. sepulcralis or weeping gum is an open tree. It recently lost its top but is re-shooting though it is not tall enough yet to weep. It has a wonderful weeping habit and in cultivation is much denser than the spindly ones at Ravensthorpe. It has pretty cream flowers.

3.

E. pendens is a multi trunked tree that's not as weepy as *Euc sepulcralis*. It too has lost its top and is re growing. It has white flowers in groups of 11.



E. formanii or the feather mallee doesn't look like a gum tree. It has very fine needle foliage. It produces masses of creamy white flowers that are very attractive to insects. It can get to 10 m so every 6 years (or so) I cut it right down to the ground. It takes another 4 or 5 years to flower again. It's in bud so should flower this summer. It is quite dense.

E. desmondensis has a white bloom on its newer growth. It has small yellow flowers and the birds love it. After 18 years it's about 8m high, is narrow trunked (mine has a slight kink as it bent on Black Saturday) and the foliage is at the top.



E. alatisima or the wing-fruited mallee is a small multi trunked tree with extremely decorative buds and mine is the yellow form.

E. lacrimans or the weeping snow gum is a large fast growing tree with a mottled trunk & pendulous foliage. It has small cream flowers. The twigs are red. It's the biggest gum in my garden.



4.

My **E. gillii** is a very small plant about 400 mm wide x 150 mm. It has flowered but isn't growing much.



E. burracoppinensis is a small gum with interesting buds. It too has regrown. It holds its leaves upright and has cream flowers.



E. orbifolia has minniritchi bark, round leaves and creamy yellow flowers. It has the foliage at the crown.



More next time

Not from the Specimen Table - 3 - by John Thompson

Due to the re-imposition of Stage Three Covid 19 restrictions we will be unable to hold our August meeting, so this little article is about a flower that you could have seen on our August specimen table. The flower in question is unique in its genus. It is the Blue Hakea - *Hakea lehmannianna*, grown by Amanda Louden.

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.



Photo: Amanda Louden

5.

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 southwest 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.

PLANNED DIARY FOR 2020

The following events are scheduled but, because of COVID –19, are subject to government regulations and may not proceed.

August 4	AGM and John Thompson: ““Historical Collectors other than Banks and Solander” Cancelled
September 1	Dr Sandy Webb and Dr Marilyn Olliff: “The Jawbone Sanctuary”
October 6	Marg and Ivan Margitta: “South Western Australia”
November	Possibly Kurunga nursery and café, but we may need to change this because of space difficulties.
December 1	Christmas wind-up, “Clear the Decks” plant sale and members’ slides. Alternative date for AGM

Plant Sales and Shows 2020

July 25, 26	Cranbourne Gardens Friends Winter Plant Sale, 10am – 4pm Cancelled
September 5,6	Open Garden Scheme. Bill Aitchison and Sue Guymer, 13 Conos Crt, Donvale
September 12,13	APS Yarra Yarra Plant Expo. Eltham Community Hall, 801 Main Rd, Eltham, 10 – 4
October 24,25	FJC Rogers Seminar “Mint bushes and Allied Genera”. Saturday at Eltham Community Hall.

A big thank you to Mandy for her donation of wool to go into an Afghan rug being knitted for the Quarterly Meeting in September next year. Marj

NEXT MEETING

Write-up: Marj Seaton

Supper: None, by order of Monash Council

To prove it was cold at the end of June (from Ray)-
look closely:
one frustrated wren and a cold
breakfast -



Koalas at Colley Street bushland reserve in Pearcedale (photo from Ray):

6.

Pruning banksias

Seatons' *Banksia praemorsa* is planted next to their pool in a very narrow bed. To allow access to the filter basket, the bottom part of the plant has to be pruned back but continually sends out new growth. The accompanying picture shows that banksias flower on old wood – the flowers are all at the top and the lower part has none except where it has not been pruned.



PHOTO GALLERY

Ray and Eva have contributed some photos of recent displays in their garden:



Wattles doing nicely in the front garden.

Acacia denticulata and
Acacia willdenowiana (far right)





Acacia suaveolens



Acacia jibberdingensis



Zygophyllum apiculatum
(left)



Acacia continua
(right)



Grevillea jephcottii
(left)



Banksia bauera
(right)



Beaufortia squarrosa



Epacris longiflora

From Betty: a Martin Street beach plant, *Rhagodia candoleana* (Betty sees fairy wrens here) and an unnamed grevillea



Finally: A good show of *Acacia suaveolens* at Bunurong Park Frankston in early July as well as our Victorian emblem *Epacris impressa*.



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY

South East Melbourne Region Inc A00131128P

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL

Financial Year 1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021

	APS SE Melbourne	APS Victoria	TOTAL	Optional annual subscription to Australian Plants magazine (4 issues)	Total with Optional subscription
A Single	\$10	\$35	\$45	\$15	\$60
B Household	\$15	\$40	\$55	\$15	\$70
C Student Full Time, under 16	\$5	\$26	\$31	\$15	\$46
D Member of another group	\$5		\$5	\$15	\$20

- Membership includes subscription to the APS Vic magazine Growing Australian (4 issues per year).
- If you are already a member of APS Vic, pay only the South East Melbourne fee for your first year. After that, pay both fees to APS South East Melbourne Region direct
- If you pay your APS Vic membership through another group, sign on with us as **D**.
- You may pay for 2 or 3 years in advance. Simply multiply your chosen annual total by the number of years
- New subscription paid after February 1st runs automatically until June 30th of the following year.

-
- I wish to apply for a fee waiver for APS Victoria for the forthcoming year.
 - I wish to join/rejoin the Australian Plants Society as (circle one) **A B C D**
 - I wish to join for (circle one) **1 2 3 years**
 - I agree to be bound by the Rules and Bylaws of the Society
 - I wish to subscribe to Australian Plants Magazine also

Amount due \$

SignedDate.....

Title(s) First Name(s)

Surname(s)

Postal Address

EmailPhone.....

Membership paid at other APS Group

PAYMENT METHOD (Tick one)

Direct bank deposit (CBA) with email notification to APS South East Melbourne
BSB 063 209 Account No. 1002 6413 Include your surname as a reference

OR

Cheque for APS South East Melbourne Region posted to Treasurer, APS South East Melbourne
36 Voumard Street, Oakleigh South VIC 3167

OR

Pay by cash or cheque and deliver by hand to the Treasurer at our next meeting

PROMOTION

**APS Grampians – Pomonal Flower Show
3rd October - 4th October**

Times: Sat 9am-5pm & Sun 9am-4pm

Entry: \$5, children free

Venue

Pomonal Hall

Pomonal community Hall

3360 Ararat Halls Gap Rd. Pomonal, Victoria 3381 Australia

Special feature: Botanical art & the legacy of Banks, Solander & Parkinson.

Plant sales

Book sales

Refreshments

The Marquee

Introduced last year, a feature of the Pomonal show is the talks given in the outside marquee.

This year our special guest speaker will be **Jane Edmanson** from Gardening Australia, who will present a talk on Banks & Solander.

Bianca Friend from the Australian Wildlife Conservancy will give a presentation on the projects AWC does for the conservation of small mammals.

Mike Bayly will give a talk on 'How different plant species and plant communities respond to fire'.

The popular local entomologist **Denis Crawford** will again return this year to delight his audience with all things insects.

Q&A sessions will also be held.