



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.

A00131128P

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Or semelb@apsvic.org.au

SEPTEMBER 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 OCTOBER newsletter is SEPTEMBER 24th*******

We have a lovely collection of photos this month submitted by Mandy, Ray and Eva, and Ivan; Mandy continues with her discussion of the eucalypts in her garden and John has another of his series "Not from the Specimen Table"80. I hope you enjoy these.

With our current lockdown situation it is likely that we will not be able to hold our monthly meetings for most of the remainder of this year. We are dependent on the availability of the Hughesdale hall which is subject to the rules of Monash Council and they are not very hopeful.

We will need to come to some arrangement regarding our AGM which our Rules say needs to be held within five months of the end of the financial year - possibly using technology but that is yet to be discussed by your committee. If you have used a platform like ZOOM, could you please let us know of your experiences. Not all of our members have internet so we will need to make allowances for that and some don't have webcams.

In the meantime, it is important that you make sure that your membership is up-to-date. Names of financial members must be in the hands of the APS Vic's Membership Officer before the end of October if members are to receive the December "Growing Australian". So far, only ten members have renewed.

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	33.9						581.8
Highett	114	76	63	136.7	56	44.3	33.5						523.5
Hampton	119	75	57	132	48	32	23						486
Cranbourne South	99	64	72	167	89	49	44						584
Caulfield Sth	127	70.5	62.5	148	58	33	19						518
Elsternwick	120	86	67.5	141.5	74	38	25.9						552.9

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EUCALYPTUS

Mandy continues with her description of the eucalypts growing in her garden.



Growing in a large tub is *Euc. albida*. I'm growing it for its juvenile foliage, which is a bright silver green, so I regularly cut it back. If left to mature the leaves are green and it has small cream flowers. I've planted another in the backyard but it's not doing very well, probably too shaded.



E. albopurpurea is also in a large tub it has purple flowers



Another tub has *Euc. erythrocorys* or the red-capped gum. It has flowers in bundles of four. They are a very bright green/yellow with bright red caps. The leaves are a shiny green.



In the backyard I have three *E. kingsmillii*. All three are regrowing; flowers well even when young. The flowers are ribbed.



E. Rhodantha (left and right above) was in a pot but has grown through into the ground. It has big red flowers on short stalks. It has a very wild spread and silver stalkless leaves.

E. eremophila is struggling in a pot, it would like it hotter. It has flowered but the buds are inclined to abort.



Eucalyptus "Moon lagoon" is in a small pot; it has small juvenile leaves.



E. pulverulenta has also grown through its pot. It has round stemless leaves in pairs, a wild multi-stemmed habit and cream flowers in autumn.



I have recently planted two *E. youngiana* (one in the back and one in the front). They have coarsely ribbed buds. They should be the yellow form. I also have the red form in a pot. I've tried them before with no luck so far.



Angophora hispida is in a large tub. It blew over some years ago and was cut off. The regrowth is multi-stemmed but the possums are eating it so although it's probably tall enough to flower it's unlikely to get the chance.

My garden for those who haven't seen it is just a house on a 1/4 acre. There are plenty of small eucalyptus out there that do well in a suburban garden.



What is happening in your garden? Please consider writing a paragraph or so and/or taking a photo and submitting for next month's newsletter. We'd love to hear about a favourite plant of yours or of any work you've been doing during lockdown.

The following is an old article produced by the Sustainability Department at Glen Eira Council. It may give you some ideas for your place.

Australian Indoor Plants

If you don't have a backyard, indoor plants are a great way to brighten up a room, reduce indoor pollution and boost your mood. Some of our favourite natives that make fantastic indoor plants include:

- Staghorn Fern (*Platynerium andinum*): needs bright, indirect light and regular watering. When light levels subside in the winter months, they may need to be moved to a brighter spot.
- Black bean tree (*Castanospermum australe*): tolerates low, filtered light to full sun if gradually introduced. Plant the seedlings in a potting mix with a slow release organic fertilizer.
- Broad-leaved palm lily (*Cordyline petiolaris*): requires minimal watering, and will happily grow in sun or shade, and in shallow or deep soils.
- Kentia palm (*Howea forsteriana*): enjoys indirect sunlight. Slow release pellets and minimal watering are recommended to help them flourish. Remember to spray the foliage with water, too.
- Pink Rock Orchid (*Thelychiton kingianus*): grows best in a bark mix rather than a standard potting mix, and enjoy sitting on a window sill. Make sure not to overwater this species.

Not from the Specimen Table – 4

By John Thompson

By the time that you are reading this it will be late August and hopefully the situation has eased and we can look forward to going back to Stage Three restrictions. This article is the fourth in a series featuring plants that are not often seen on the specimen table during the normal yearly meetings.

This month's plant is *Diploglottis campbellii* or small leaved Tamarind. *D. campbellii* is a small tree to 10-18 metres in height although 5-10 metres in cultivation. It comes from northern NSW and Southern Qld where it is found in only 25 locations. It is considered an endangered species with about 150 plants left in the wild. The clearing and subsequent fragmentation of its rainforest habitat are the reason for its decline.

It has a reasonably dense canopy so is good for providing shade for other plants. The leaves are 10-35 cm long and are divided into four to eight leaflets. The flowers are creamy brown and are produced in panicles to 15cm long in November to January, these are followed by roundish fruit to 3cm in diameter that have an edible fleshy aril that surrounds the seed. This aril can be red, orange or more rarely yellow. The seeds germinate readily when fresh so although rare in the wild it is fairly common in cultivation.

Plants prefer a sunny or lightly shaded aspect and will grow in most free draining soils. They prefer not to dry out so supplementary watering during summer is recommended. Propagation is from seed or cuttings if the aril colour is to be preserved.

The fleshy aril or seed covering is the edible part of the plant. The aril is only 1-2mm in thickness so many fruit are required to gain a usable quantity for cooking. Fruiting on a mature tree can be prolific.

5.



Despite many fruit being out of reach they will, as they mature, drop to the ground and are readily harvestable. The arils are removed and stored in a container in the freezer until the tree has finished fruiting or the desired amount of fruit has been collected. The arils can be turned into a jam which is not only a lovely colour but delicious.

Diploglottis species are members of the Sapindaceae family, a worldwide family chiefly from tropical and sub-tropical regions consisting of c.150 genera, c.2000 species with c.30 genera and c.190 species in Australia. Australian genera include *Alectryon*, *Cupaniopsis*, *Dodonaea*, *Harpullia*, *Lepiderema* and *Toechima*. There are ten species of *Diploglottis* with eight being endemic to Australia.

The name *Diploglottis* is derived from the Greek, *diploos*, double and *glotta*, the tongue, referring to the two tongue-like glands at the base of each petal; and the species name *campbelli* is after Mr. R. A. Campbell of the Tweed district who discovered the species.

For anyone with a little time to spare, here is a link to a survey about Wollemi Pines.

[Surveymonkey.com/r/Wollemi](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Wollemi)

PLANNED DIARY FOR 2020

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

- September 1** Dr Sandy Webb and Dr Marilyn Olliff: "The Jawbone Sanctuary" **Postponed until next March**
- October 6** Marg and Ivan Margitta: "South Western Australia"
- November** Possibly Kuranga nursery and café, but we may need to change this because of space difficulties.
- December 1** Alternative date for AGM. Christmas wind-up, "Clear the Decks" plant sale, members' slides.

Plant Sales and Shows 2020

- 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.

6.

PHOTO GALLERY

Two photos from Mandy proving that spring is close.



Ray and Eva's garden is showing well at this time of year – *Kennedia prostrata* and *Epacris impressa* as well as a whole host of other species on our next page.

Kennedia prostrata



Grevillea shirressii



Epacris impressa (pink)



Epacris impressa "Cranbourne Bells"



Epacris longiflora white



Epacris longiflora



Conospermum caerulea and Darwinia

Epacris longiflora x reclinata "Pan Pipes" →



←
Darwinia macrostegia

Darwinia coolamon pink →



8.

Ivan visited Maranoa Gardens before stage 4 lockdown and captured some superb wattles, broken arm and all! Here are three pages of golden colour (apt, as 1st September is Wattle Day).

Acacia amblygona



Acacia boormanii



Acacia curranii



Acacia decurrens



Acacia mariae



Acacia multispicata



9.

Acacia phlebopetala



Acacia spectabilis



Acacia triquetra



Acacia extensa



Acacia glandulicarpa



10.

Acacia handonis



Acacia flexifolia



Finally, a couple from Marj and Norm's garden: *Acacia imbricata*



And *coronidium elatum*



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

PROMOTION

(Subject to COVID – 19 Restrictions)

**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.