



AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY  
**SOUTH EAST MELBOURNE REGION INC.**

A00131128P

PO Box 8835 Armadale 3143

Email: [aps.se.melb@gmail.com](mailto:aps.se.melb@gmail.com)

Or [semelb@apsvic.org.au](mailto:semelb@apsvic.org.au)

**MARCH NEWSLETTER 2021**

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 <a href="mailto:thomme@netspace.net.au">thomme@netspace.net.au</a>
SECRETARY:	Helen Appleby
TREASURER:	Norm Seaton <a href="mailto:normarjs@bigpond.com">normarjs@bigpond.com</a>
PUBLIC OFFICER:	Helen Appleby
NEWSLETTER EDITOR:	Marj Seaton <a href="mailto:normarjs@bigpond.com">normarjs@bigpond.com</a>
APS VIC DELEGATE	Marj Seaton
COMMITTEE:	Amanda Loudon <a href="mailto:amandalouden@icloud.com">amandalouden@icloud.com</a> Chris Bain

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 April newsletter is MARCH 24th\*\*\*\*\***

**March Meeting**

**8pm Tuesday**

**Hughesdale Community Hall**

**Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads, Hughesdale**

**Speakers: Dr Sandy Webb PhD PSM**

**Topic: Jawbone Marine Sanctuary**

Sandy Webb graduated in Zoology and Chemistry from the University of Adelaide. Her early career was in scientific/medical research in reproductive biology, but she obtained a PhD from Cambridge University on the basis of her work on the evaluation of IVF and related procedures in Western Australia. In the Queen's Birthday Honours of 2005 she was awarded a Public Service Medal on the basis of her contributions to policy making in the fields of reproductive and gene technology.

Sandy has been on the Committee of the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group since 2009. Among other things she is working on a comprehensive Species Inventory for the Sanctuary and she is building up a collection of herbarium specimens of algae (collected under permit) from the marine sanctuaries of Port Phillip Bay.

The **Jawbone Marine Sanctuary Care Group** contributes to the monitoring of seagrass and mangroves in the Sanctuary, participates in the Great Victorian Fish Count and the Sea Slug Survey of the Victorian National Parks Association, partners with groups such as the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre and various primary schools from the western suburbs for field trips, and works with Parks Victoria as required, to assist in the monitoring and eradication of marine pests such as the Northern Pacific Seastar and Japanese kelp.

Her talk will introduce the Marine environment of the Jawbone Marine Sanctuary, including its 'blue carbon' assets-the mangroves, seagrasses and saltmarsh.

2.

### OUTING TO THE JAWBONE SANCTUARY

At our December meeting, it was suggested that we organise an excursion to the Sanctuary. The committee have planned this for **2pm Sunday March 28<sup>th</sup>**. A possible meeting spot would be on Crofton Drive, near the Williamstown Linear Reserve. This will be confirmed (or otherwise) at the March meeting.

As there is no convenient coffee shop nearby, thermoses and afternoon tea to share would be welcome.

Sensible walking shoes will be needed.

We will need to be aware of any COVID restrictions in place at the time.



### RAINFALL RECORDS for 2021

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>Oakleigh South</b>	83												83
<b>Highett</b>	71.7												71.7
<b>Hampton</b>													
<b>Cranbourne South</b>	70												70
<b>Caulfield South</b>													
<b>Elsternwick</b>	85.8												85.8

### Planting trees in square holes

Lance Collins has sent in a link which gives reasons for planting into square holes rather than round ones. Essentially it is because growing roots can't negotiate the corners so head off into the surrounding soil. With round holes, roots stay with the soil they are growing in so continue in a circle, a common cause of plants being root bound.

For the full article look up: <https://www.intelligentliving.co/planting-trees-in-square-holes/>

The article also talks about what soil you should fill the hole with after planting.

### FEBRUARY MEETING

John Thompson gave us a very interesting talk on the topic "Early Botanical Exploration in Australia".

Our earliest explorers of course were our indigenous people who first occupied Australia around 50,000 – 60 000 years ago.

Of European exploration, the Dutch were probably the first to encounter Australian plants. The Dutch were following trade routes to the Dutch East Indies and without accurate longitude measurements ships were sometimes lost or encountered the Western Australian coast.

Early explorers such as **Dirk Hartog** (recorded at Shark Bay in both 1606 and 1616) and Abel Tasman who explored both the north coast of Australia and the Tasmania coastline around 1642 and 1644, were not known to have collected any plants. **William de Vlamingh** travelled up the Swan River and named both it and Rottnest Island around 1697. He did some collecting of both flora and fauna though most samples have been lost. Two eventually made it to a herbarium in Geneva after being initially taken to Java - *Synaphea spinulosa* and *Acacia truncata*, both having originally been mis-identified as ferns.

The buccaneer **William Dampier** travelling on the *Roebuck*, first made notes on flora and fauna seen in 1688 though no collection was made. However, on a return journey in 1699 he collected at Shark Bay and subsequently published a book about his New Holland travels in 1703 This included details of *Conostylis stylidioides*, *Sida calyxhymenia*, *Diplolaena grandiflora* and *Beaufortia sprengelioides*.

Robert Brown later named the genus *Dampiera* after William Dampier.

3.

**Banks and Solander** (captured in stained glass right) enthusiastically collected 132 specimens at Botany Bay whilst travelling on the Endeavour from April to August 1770, pressing, drying and sorting their material and writing botanical descriptions. Most still exist today eg *Banksia serrata*.

The Surgeons:

**John White** (1756 – 1832) - White wrote *A Journal of a Voyage to New South Wales* (1790), which described many Australian species for the first time. He collected in the Sydney area. He was also believed to be the first distiller of eucalyptus oil. His specimens were lodged at the herbarium of James Smith, and English botanist and founder of the Linnean Society.



**Archibald Menzies** (1754 – 1842) was the Naturalist/Surgeon on Captain Vancouver's around the world voyage 1791 - 1795. He collected in the King George Sound (Albany, WA) notably *Banksia sessilis*, *Banksia grandis* and *Banksia praemorsa* which were sent to the Kew Herbarium. Plants bearing his name include *Banksia menziesii*, *Leptoceras (Caladenia) menziesii* and *Utricularia menziesii*.

Military Man:

**William Paterson** (1755 – 1810) soldier, explorer and lieutenant-governor was born in Montrose, Scotland, trained in horticulture at Syon House, London and was sent to southern Africa as a botanical collector in 1777. Also interested in zoology, he is said to have been the first person to take a live giraffe to London. Subsequently he was appointed to Norfolk Island and collected there, as well as on the Hawkesbury and Hunter Rivers, for Banks. He also sent seeds to Lee & Kennedy and Colvill nurseries in London. His name lives on in *Paterson sp* (left) and *Lagunaria Patersonia* (right).



The French:

**Jacques Labillardiere** (1755 – 1835) travelled on the D'Entrecasteaux expedition. During the voyage Labillardiere (below) collected more than 4,000 plants, as well as animals, fish and birds. He collected in Tasmania and around Esperance WA, collecting pimeleas, banksias and the first Western Australian eucalypt to be described, *Eucalyptus cornuta*. There is a plaque in Esperance recording his appearance there. The genus *Billardiera* was named for him.



In 1804-1807 he published 'Novae Hollandiae Plantarum Specimen', the most comprehensive account of the Australian flora to that time.

**Nicolas Baudin** (1754 –1803) arrived in Australia in 1804 on a journey which had the purpose of "observation and research relating to Geography and Natural History". On board were also Leschenault de la Tour, a gardener Antoine Guichenot as well as artists and naturalists. Collected in Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales. Over 100,000

zoological specimens were also collected.

*Brunonia australis*

The Botanists:

**Robert Brown** (1773 – 1858) was the botanist on Matthew Flinders voyage charting the coastline of Australia in 1801 – 1803. He collected specimens from all but the west coast of Australia.



4.

Brown's collection contained around 1700 new species and about 140 new plant genera, about 4000 species altogether. He became Banks' librarian on his return to London and, after Banks' death, trustee of Banks' collection. His name is perpetuated in plants such as *Brunonia australis* and *Stylidium brunonianum*.

Allan Cunningham (1791 – 1839). Was attached to John Oxley's expedition beyond the Blue Mountains and collected ~450 species. He travelled as the ships botanist aboard the HMS Mermaid and the HMS Bathurst under Phillip Parker King. Collected ~1300 species. He returned to England in 1831 but returned to Australia as Colonial Botanist in 1837. Cunningham is remembered in *Actinodium cunninghamii* and *Araucaria cunninghamii*.

The Convict:

**John Richardson** (1797 – 1882) was a bit of a bad boy. He had worked as a nurseryman in Sussex but was sentenced to seven years transportation for stealing gin then after returning to England was sentenced to death for house-breaking, later commuted to transportation for life in 1822. He accompanied John Oxley on several expeditions and served as a botanical collector with Major Mitchell's third expedition but he continued to be in trouble with the law.

Commercial Collectors:

**William Baxter** (c. 1792 –c. 1836). A gardener, he collected seeds and plants on behalf of Robert Brown and British nurserymen as well as the Sydney Botanic Gardens. Collected on the south coast of Western Australia, the Stirling Range WA, Kangaroo Island and parts of NSW. Returning to England in 1830 he sold seeds and plants to Joseph Knight for £1500. Knight set up and ran the Royal Exotic Nursery in Kings Road in Chelsea.

Baxter is remembered in *Banksia baxteri*, *Kunzea baxteri*, *Hakea baxteri*, *Isopogon baxteri*, *Gompholobium baxteri*, *Agonis baxteri*, *Prostanthera baxteri*, *Brachyloma baxteri*, *Acacia baxteri*, *Grevillea baxteri* and *Chrysocephalum baxteri*.

**James Drummond** (1786 – 1863) Arrived in the Swan River Colony in 1829 as the government naturalist/ botanist. His collections of plants and seed were sent to Captain Mangles in London and later William Hooker at Kew. Overall, Drummond sent about seeds of about 3500 to London, including twelve new banksia species. *Acacia drummondii* is named for him.

The Housewife:

**Georgina Molloy** (1805 – 1843), right, was one of the first plant collectors in the Swan River Colony, WA. She collected seeds from the Augusta and Busselton areas and sent them to Captain James Mangles.

*Boronia molloyae* is named in her honour.



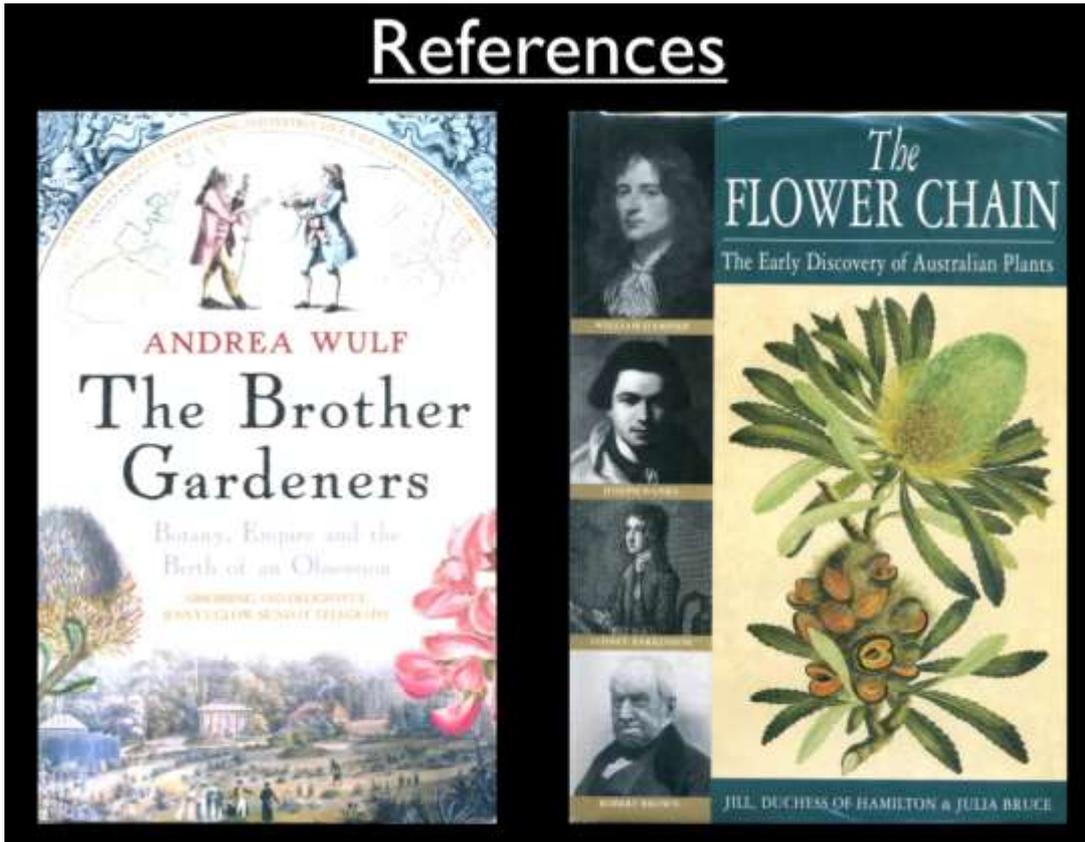
What happened to Plants and Seeds sent to England?

Some were lodged at the Kew Herbarium whilst duplicates were sent to other herbaria and some went to private gardens of some of the nobility. Commercial Nurseries also received material. The first seedlings were raised in 1772 at Kew. From 1771 to 1800, around 170 species were introduced into cultivation.

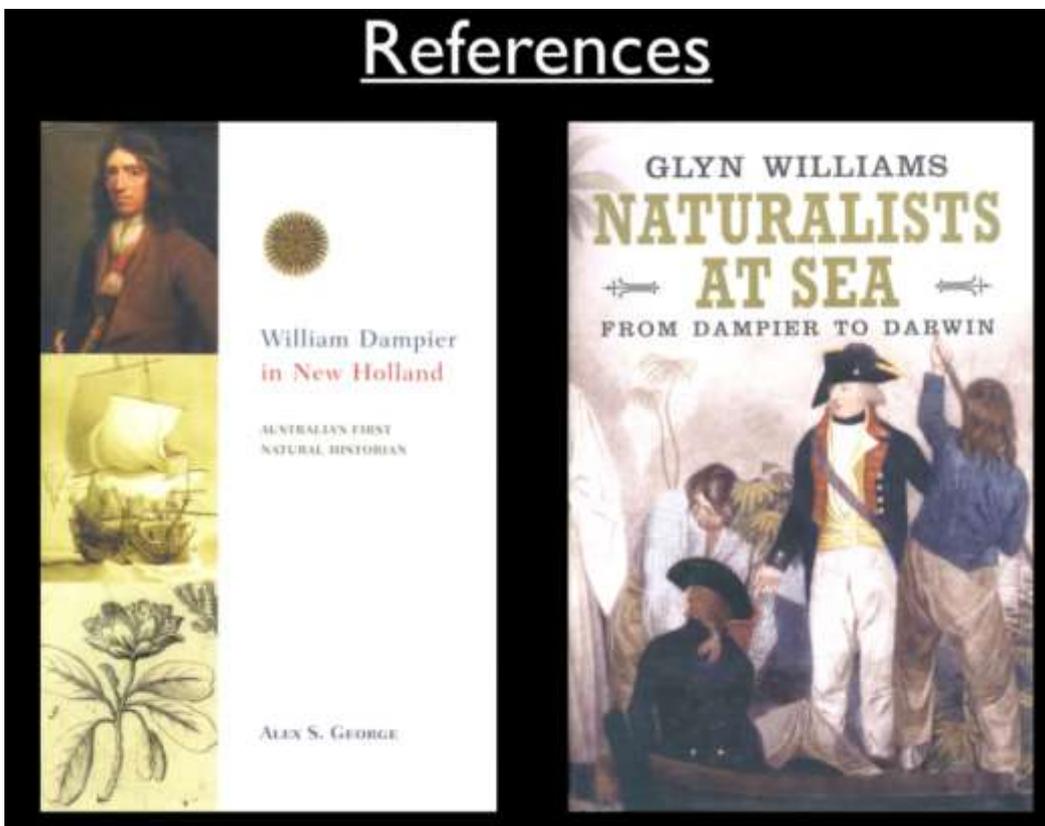
Plants of the New World were highly sought after, particularly during the heyday of Australian plants from 1800 to 1835. By 1835, so many people had been sending plant material 'home' that there was some loss of allure. After that date too, glasshouses were using steam for heating which was detrimental to Australian plants and many died.

John has compiled a set of references for further reading and these will be found on the next two pages:

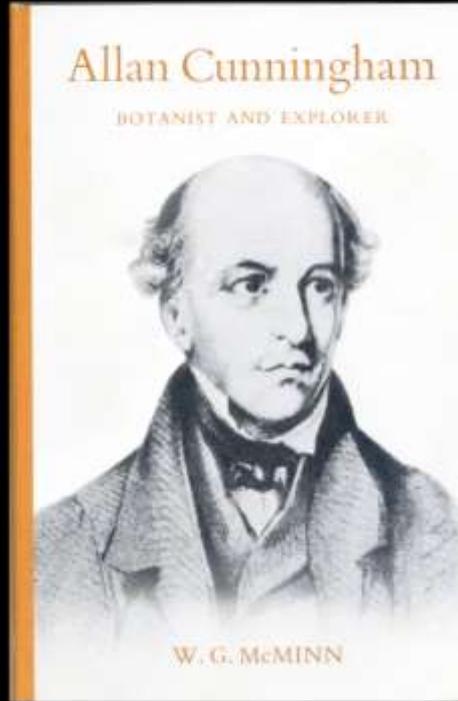
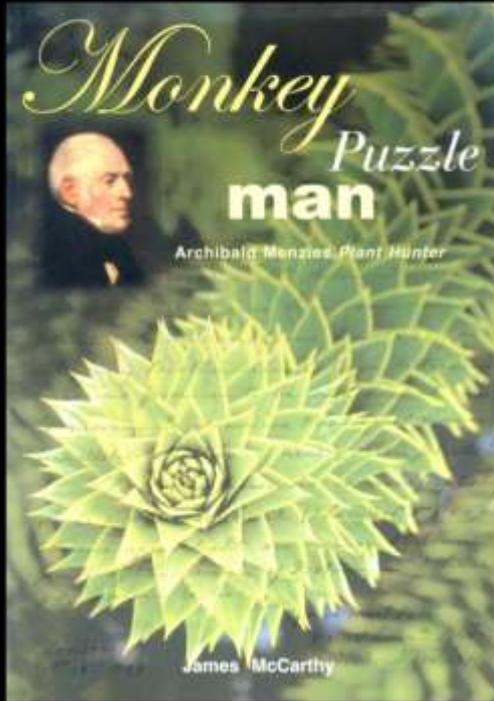
## References



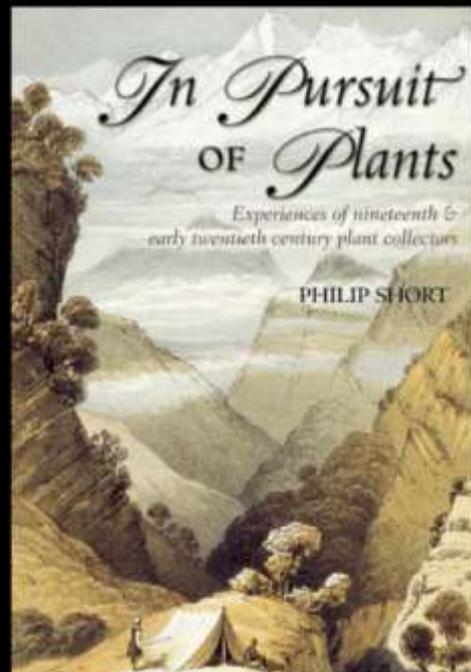
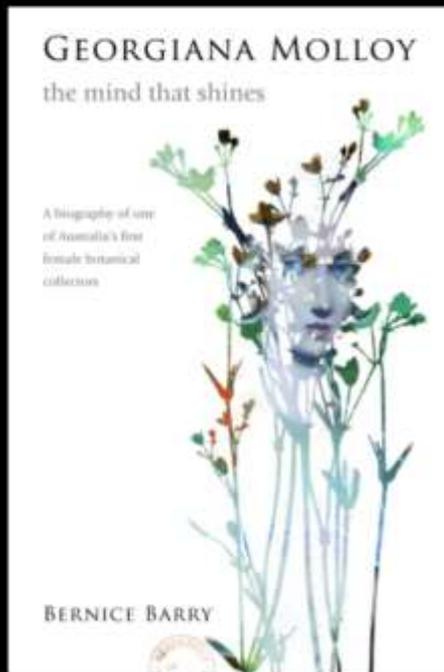
## References



## References



## References



7.

## SPECIMEN TABLE

John and Mandy presented a few specimens and Marj brought in two books for us to browse.

One of Mandy's pieces was of an extraordinary eucalypt, *E. formanii*. Tiny flowers and the second smallest leaves of the family, this did not seem like a eucalypt until you smelled the crushed the leaves and looked closely at the flowers and buds.

Bought from Bunnings at the end of last year, *Ptilotus sp.* has striking pink/purple tips on its flowers.



Mandy also presented the blue flowering *Veronica arenaria*



and *Lambertia formosa* with its bright orange/red flowers in groups of four, and *Hypercalymma xanthopetalum*, sometimes mistaken for a wattle, but a valuable long flowering small shrub.

John gave us two Backhousias – *B. citriodora* and *B. myrtifolia*. *B. citriodora* is the well known lemon myrtle which can grow to about 8m in Melbourne. *B. myrtifolia* can be grown in a big tub and makes a good display both when in flower and once the flowers drop and calyces remain. The leaves of *B. myrtifolia* have a cinnamon-like smell.

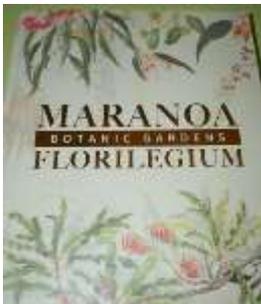
Like its leatherwood relative, the rare *Eucryphia wilkiei* has prolific simple white flowers (right). John said it makes a good container plant and he is going to try to propagate it from seed as cuttings are supposed to be very difficult. John's grows to about 2m x 1.5m and is not dense. (This plant was featured in the October 2020 newsletter under "Not from the specimen table").



Ruth brought in a sad piece of *Corymbia ficifolia* hoping someone could help with a diagnosis – all of the buds had either disintegrated or been eaten though the tree is otherwise healthy.

Too much rain was one suggestion – hungry cockies another.

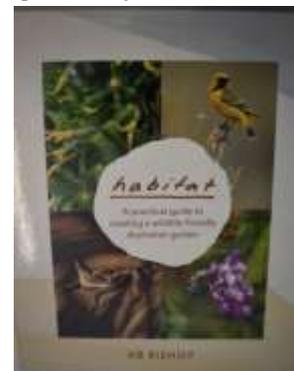
Marj's books were: "Maranoa Botanic Gardens Florilegium" by Margaret Castle and put out by the



Boroondara Council. With a short history of the gardens and individual plates and descriptions of some of the major plants growing in the gardens, this would make an excellent gift and addition to a plant lover's library.

"Habitat" by AB Bishop would be a valuable addition to the library of anyone wanting to increase the fauna population of their garden. Well illustrated, there are articles on biodiversity in the garden, attracting wildlife and designing an ecological garden. Individual chapters are given over to specific animals' needs and how to

attract them. Several gardens are written up as examples of what can be achieved.

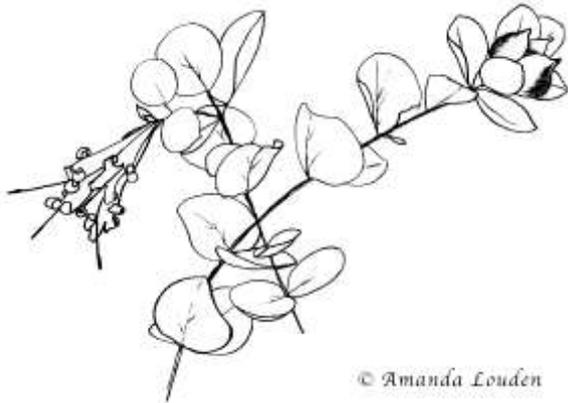


**Pick of the Bunch February 2021**

*Lambertia orbifolia* C. A. Gardner Round-leaf Honeysuckle  
Specimen grown by Amanda Loudon

*Lambertia orbifolia* is an open, non lignotuberous, medium sized shrub 2 - 4m high x 1 - 3m wide from an area around Albany. Another as yet unnamed subspecies occurs in the Scott River Plains area south of Busselton. *L. orbifolia* grows in sandy loams over laterite or in gravel in jarrah woodland often along roadsides. The orange-red flowerheads are in groups of four and occur in either in the leaf axils or terminally. The flowering period is from November to April, with a peak during summer but can occur at any time.

*L. orbifolia* will grow in most well drained soils in a sunny or partially sunny aspect. Propagation is from seed that requires pretreatment (treatment with smoke or smoked water) or from cuttings.



*Lambertia* 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 *Banksia*, *Conospermum*, *Dryandra*, *Grevillea*, *Hakea*, *Isopogon*, *Lomatia*, *Persoonia*, *Stenocarpus*, *Telopea* and *Xylomelum*. There are 10 species of *Lambertia*, nine occur in the south west of Western Australia with one species (*L. formosa*) confined to eastern NSW.

The name, *Lambertia*, is after Aylmer Bourke Lambert (1761–1842), English patron of botany, who collected and grew many Australian species; his herbarium was second only to that of Sir Joseph Banks in size and quality. The specific name, *orbifolia*, is from the Latin, *orbis*; round, circular and *folium*; leaf, in reference to the round leaves of the plant.

**NEXT MEETING****Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March****Supper:** Ruth Evans (Please bring milk)**Write-up:** Marj Seaton**DIARY FOR 2021****APS South East Melbourne Meetings:**

<b>2 March</b>	Topic: "Jawbone Sanctuary". Speakers: Dr Sandy Webb
<b>6 April</b>	Topic: "Malvaceae". Speaker: Trevor Blake
<b>May</b>	Topic: A WA holiday. Speakers: Ivan and Marg Margitta
<b>June</b>	Topic: "Boronia Oil". Speaker: Chris Long
<b>July</b>	TBA
<b>August</b>	AGM and members' slides
<b>September</b>	Propagation night
<b>October</b>	TBA

**Other dates:**

- 28 March** APS SE Melbourne excursion to Jawbone Sanctuary. Meet at 2pm. (See earlier item)
- 24 - 28 March** - 25<sup>th</sup> Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show, Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, Melbourne.
- 17 April** - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks.
- 25 April** - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale, Eltham Senior Citizens Hall, Eltham. 10 am – 4 pm.
- 1 May** - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale, Seawinds Gardens, Arthurs Seat Park, Purves Road, Arthurs Seat. 10 am - 3.30 pm
- 8 May** - APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale 9 – 1. Possibly at St Andrews Uniting Church Bacchus Marsh. To be confirmed.

- 8 & 9 May** - Cranbourne Growing Friends hold a weekend plant sale in the gardens from 10.00 - 4.00. Check [www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au](http://www.rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au) for plant list and to ensure that the sale is going ahead prior to the sale.
- June** - APS Vic COM Shepparton – to be advised.
- 4 Sept** - APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick.
- 11 & 12 Sept** - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham. 10 – 4
- 25 & 26 Sept** - APS Grampians Group host APS Victoria COM Meeting.
- 2 & 3 Oct** - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.
- 9 October** - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. Huge flower display, plant sales, floral art, Native Bonsai, basket weaving and other displays & demonstrations. 9-4
- 16 Oct** - APS Mitchell Annual Flower Expo and Sale, Memorial Hall, Kilmore.
- 23 & 24 Oct** - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gilles Street, Ballarat. 10 am – 4 pm.
- 13 & 14 Nov** - Garden DesignFest, Metro Melbourne & Mornington Peninsula
- 20 & 21 Nov** - Garden DesignFest, Regional Victoria: Ballarat, Euroa, Geelong and Macedon Area.
- 11 – 16 Sept 2022** - ANPSA Biennial Conference – Kiama, New South Wales.  
The theme 'Australian Flora – Past Present Future'. The Conference will be hosted by the Australian Plants Society (NSW).  
Preliminary details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can be found on the APS (NSW) website.
- 15 & 16 Oct 2022** - 14<sup>th</sup> FJC Rogers Seminar.  
Topic: Fabulous peas (the typical 'pea-flowered' plants from the sub-family Faboideae. York on Lilydale in Mt Evelyn. Expressions of interest and queries to [fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com](mailto:fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com)

### ***Monthly Photo Gallery***

Just about the time of our 40<sup>0</sup>day in January, Ray was bemoaning the lack of rain in Cranbourne South. Any holes he dug fell in straight away so planting was not going to happen. He did have some gorgeous flowers to share with us:

*Verticordia grandis*



*Verticordia mitchelliana*



*Eryngium ovinum*



10.

*Blandfordia grandiflora*



*Regelia ciliata*



*Hibiscus heterophylla orange*



*Hibiscus heterophylla yellow*

