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## JULY MEETING

Speaker: Chris Clarke

Topic: A Snapshot of Victorian Alpine Flora

We had a visual feast of gorgeous flower photos at our July meeting.

Chris commenced by telling us how his home group, APS Keilor Plains, visits the Alps every two years. He has been a member there for 18 – 20 years and in that time has visited many of our alpine areas, including Mt Baw Baw, Howman's Gap, Mt St Gwinear, Mt Stirling, Falls Creek, Mt Hotham, Mt Buller, Lake Mountain etc.



Our alpine areas are generally rounded and smooth rather than the jagged peaks we see in Europe. The key reason is that we don't have glaciers. The Australian Alps are still being pushed up as our tectonic plate is being pushed by the New Zealand plate. Victoria's highest peak is Mt Bogong.

Some of the plants featured in Chris' presentation included:

- The pretty sky lily, *Herpolirion novae-zelandiae* – not actually a lily – (right), rare, seen just after snow.
- Mountain celery on Mt Buller
- Australian caraway – *Oreomyrrhis*
- Lots of daisies, including the silver foliaged snow daisies *Celmisia* of



which there are many species, *Craspedia maxgreyi*, *Coronidium monticola*, *Brachyscome scapigera* and *B. rigidula*, various *Olearias* and *Podolepis* as well as various *Ozothamnus* and *Xerochrysum* species.

- *Wahlenbergia gloriosa* with its vivid big blue/purple flowers (right)
- Several members of the *Epacris* family including *Epacris glacialis* and *Richea continentis*
- Various peas, eg *Hovea montana* (Mountain hovea). *Podolbiums*, *Pultenaea*
- *Gentianella muelleriana* with its blue/mauve markings on the petals – found on Mt Buller only (right)
- The ivy leaved *Goodenia hederacea*



3.

- A wet area featuring the bladderwort *Utricularia dichotoma* – fairies aprons, one of eleven species found in Victoria, two at least in the Grampians (left).



- A close-up of the vanilla lily *Arthropodium milleflorum* showing its wonderfully detailed flower structure.
- Two great photos of snow gums – *Eucalyptus pauciflora* ssp *pauciflora* (see top)
- Orchids such as *Prasophyllum alpestra*, *P. tadgellianum*, *Pterostylis alpine* and *P. cycnocephala* (the swan greenhood) and *Thelymitra cyanea*
- Golden yellow *Ranunculus* species sadly suffering due to cattle and feral horses. The white flowering *R. anemonifolia* is now extinct in Victoria.

- Proteacea such as *Grevillea victoriae* (the Royal Grevillea) with red flowers and *Grevillea australis* with its tiny white flowers.
- *Stackhousia monogyna*
- *Stylidium armeria* which is similar to the local *S. graminifolium* but with bigger flowers and more vivid colouring.
- A stinkhorn fungus
- Finally we were shown a variety of “mini-beasties”, including the mountain katydid, an alpine katydid, several moths and butterflies as well as the Highland Copperhead snake seen at Mt Gwinear and the colourful flame robin.

A very varied selection which was enjoyed by all – many thanks to Chris who invited anyone interested to consider joining his group’s next alpine excursion.



*Pimelea* with mountain pepper



*Prasophyllum alpestre* Falls Creek



Female Orange Xeneca, Mt Gwinear



*Thelymitra cyanea*, Veined Sun Orchid, Falls Creek



Painted lady on snow daisy

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### SPECIMEN TABLE JULY MEETING

Mandy brought in a bowl of *Conostylis* that captured everyone's attention. From north of Esperance in WA,



*Conostylis bealiana* has its golden flowers set at the base of its strap like foliage. It flowers for several weeks and needs good airflow so as not to fall prey to any fungal disease.

Other plants featuring in Mandy's collection included *Acacia alata*, the winged wattle, with its winged leaves, prickles and lemony yellow flower balls, *Acacia denticulosa*, the sandpaper wattle which lives up to its common name very well having coarsely



rough leaves but also brilliant cylindrical yellow flowers, *Gastrolobium celsianum* or Swan river pea with its dark red flowers, a variety of correas, one of the white lacy grevilleas and *Adenanthos ileticos* which has interesting foliage and the tiniest of pink flowers.

In Marj's collection there were *Philotheca verrucosa* (the



species name means warty and these can be seen all over the stems) with its small white flowers, pink buds and aromatic foliage, *Leptospermum sericeum* (left) which has silvery foliage and quite large pink flowers. This plant was seen in the wild on the Cranbourne trip to WA several years ago. Marj resurrected her plant from near death and it is now about 1 ½ m tall and will try to propagate it from cuttings. She also had *Chorizema cordatum* x *varium* which is starrng in full sun but flowerless in the shade, *Banksia spinulosa*, full size, which is still bringing forth new flowers, and low growing *Micromyrtus ciliata* with its arching flower filled stems.



John showed several wattles: *Acacia macrodenia*, the zig zag wattle, grows inland of Townsville, has bright yellow ball flowers and a weeping habit. It grows roughly 2 ½ - 3m x 2 1/2m. *Acacia heterochroa* comes from Ravensthorpe in WA and has pale lemon balls. The following pods are attractive in themselves for their reddish brown colouring. *Acacia browniana endlicheri* is a small shrub, without prickles and very floriferous, it grows to about 1½ m x 1½m. John's final wattle, *Acacia alata* var *tetrantha* was a different variant from Mandy's and featured white flowers instead of pale yellow. Both were equally as attractive but beware the prickles!



A hybrid of *Grevillea sericea*, *G. sericea* 'Collaroy Plateau' flowers year round with

butterflies and birds.

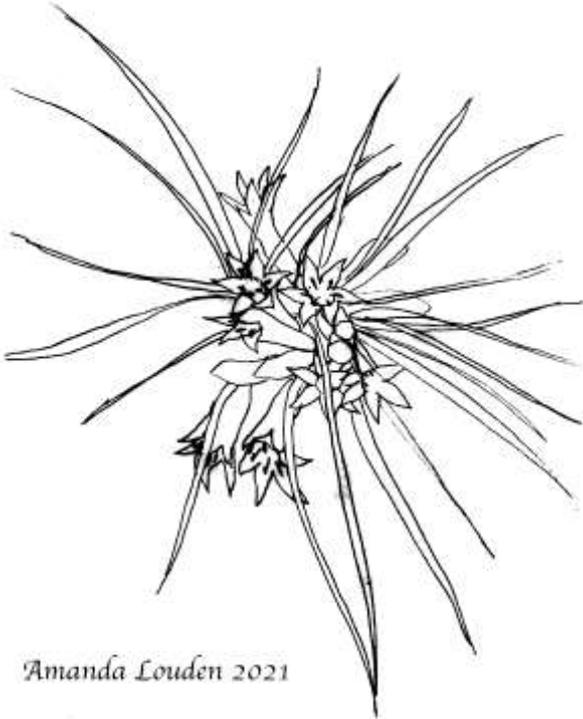
bright pink flowers. The plant grows to 2m x 2m and is attractive to

5.

Pick of the Bunch July 2021

*Conostylis bealiana* F. Muell. Specimen grown by Amanda Louden

*Conostylis bealiana* is a small rhizomatous, tufted perennial up to 30cm in diameter from the Avon Wheatbelt, Coolgardie, Esperance Plains and Mallee bioregions of south west Western Australia. The leaves are up to 200mm long and have hairy margins. The bright yellow, tubular flowers occur within the foliage but are most conspicuous. Flowering is from July to September.



Mandy's plant is grown in a pot in a sunny position. In a garden setting, well drained soil and a full to partial sun aspect are recommended. Plants can prove difficult to establish in the garden. Propagation is from seed that is rarely available or by division. Division is best done in winter to early spring but they can be difficult to divide successfully. Large divisions are recommended.

*Conostylis* is a member of the is a member of the Haemodoraceae or the Bloodroot family that contains such taxa as *Anigozanthos* (Kangaroo Paw), *Blancoa*, *Haemodorum*, *Macropidia* and *Tribonanthes*. There are c.46 species of *Conostylis* all of which are endemic to the south west of WA.

The name, *Conostylis*, comes from the Greek *conos*; cone and *stylos*; column referring to the conical base of the style. The species name, *bealiana*, is after Amy Beal (1827 - 1925) a grower of native ferns and a collector for the Melbourne Herbarium.

### **FAIRY LANTERNS**

A recent reporting in New Scientist records the finding of a new species of fairy lantern (*Thismia sitimeriamiae*). Fairy lanterns are plants belonging to the family *Burmanniaceae* that appear to have no stem or leaves and have no chlorophyll in either their underground rhizomes or in the flowering stalk. There are about 25+ species known, occurring from Asia to the US. The new species occurs in Malaysia; there are only a couple of plants known and these are subject to the rampages of wild boars.



We have our own rare fairy lantern, *Thismia rodwayi*, which is found in southern wet eucalypt forests where there is a thick litterfall, such as in Tasmania, Victoria, and NSW, usually consisting of *Eucalyptus obliqua*, *E. regnans*, *E. delegatensis* and *E. viminalis*. It has a very small orange and red flower which is the only part seen above ground. There is only one flower each flowering cycle. Although not fungi, fairy lanterns are associated in the soil with a saprophytic fungus, as the fungal hyphae have been found both in the plant's roots and around the roots.

(Photo from Flora of Victoria)

**NEXT MEETING****Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August ?****Supper:** Petra Cox (Please remember to bring milk)**Write-up:** Marj Seaton**DIARY FOR 2021****APS South East Melbourne Meetings:**

- August 3** AGM and members' slides?  
**September 7** Propagation night. Alternative night for AGM.  
**October 5** Malcolm Dow. A Sustainable garden and the St. Kilda Eco Centre  
**November** Visit to Kuranda for lunch?  
**December** "Clear the Decks", slide night, Christmas break-up

**Other dates:**

- 4 Sept** - APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick.  
**4,5 Sept** - Open Gardens: Bill Aitchison & Sue Guymer garden, Donvale and the Hanson Garden, 104 Webb St, Warrandyte. 10 am to 4.30 pm both days.  
 Bookings need to be done online. Entry \$10 per adult. Further details on the OGV Website.  
**11, 12 Sept** - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham. 10 am – 4 pm.  
**18, 19 Sept** - APS Bendigo Plant Show at Kangaroo Flat Primary School, Freeman Drive, Kangaroo Flat. 9.30 am to 4.00 pm both days. \$3 entry.  
**25,26 Sept** - APS Grampians Group host APS Victoria COM Meeting.  
**2,3 Oct** - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.  
**9 Oct** - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca. A huge flower display, plant sales, floral art, native Bonsai, basket weaving and other displays and demonstrations. 9 am - 4 pm.  
**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 September 2022** - ANPSA Biennial Conference 2022 – Kiama, New South Wales.

Preliminary details of the Conference, pre- and post-Conference tours and the beautiful town of Kiama can be found on the APS (NSW) website

**26 to 30 September 2022** - 7<sup>th</sup> Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Melbourne. *Influence and Action: Botanic Gardens as Agents of Change*. Includes a youth program for future gardens' leaders aged 18 to 24.

**15 & 16 October 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)



**FABULOUS PEAS**  
 F. J. C. Rogers Seminar  
 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
 Mt Evelyn, Melbourne

Learn about Australian pea flowers!  
 The fabulous plants of the Faboideae sub-family.



Speakers from interstate and local.

Topics include:

- Identification
- Propagation
- Horticulture
- Research

Pea plants and books for sale

Garden bus tour

Australian pea art exhibition

Hosted by Australian Plants Society Maroondah

Contact: [fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com](mailto:fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com)  
[apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2022](http://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2022)

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**Fabulous Peas 2022**

**FJC Rogers Biennial Seminar**

**15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Discover the extraordinary world of Australian pea plants.

**Saturday** York on Lilydale, Mount Evelyn

Speakers with expertise in identifying, growing and propagating peas. Learn about current research into propagation and growing-on techniques. Evening dinner and an entertaining speaker.

Plant sales of common and unusual pea species. Book sales. Displays. Raffle.

**Sunday** Coach tours to public and private native gardens which include a wide variety of pea species.

Art exhibition and sale featuring pea plants from 8<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October at Karwarra Australian Botanic Garden. Plant sales.

Expressions of interest: [fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com](mailto:fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com)

<https://apsvic.org.au/fjc-rogers-seminar-2022/>

**Hosted: Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.**

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

*Acacia merithophora* from Mandy's garden.  
Note the jig-jag stem.



Betty and Peter have a lot of case moths in their garden just now – one in the correa below:



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## OPEN GARDENS VICTORIA

Assuming lockdown restrictions will be over and done with, here are two terrific gardens which would be worth visiting at the beginning of September.



### Mullum Waters Open Garden

**Donvale**

Sat 4 - Sun 5 September, 2021

Open 10.00am – 4.30pm

**13 Conos Court, Donvale**

Mullum Waters provides excellent habitat for many native species from native bees to frogs and birds. There is a strong emphasis on indigenous plants.

Entry \$10 Students \$6 U18 free via Trybooking  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BRTBX>  
[opengardensvictoria.org.au](http://opengardensvictoria.org.au)



### The Hanson garden Open Garden

**Warrandyte**

Sat 4 - Sun 5 September, 2021

Open 10.00am – 4.30pm

**104 Webb St, Warrandyte**

Enjoy this natural bush walk which highlights the love of native orchids, wildflowers, birdlife and possums all accompanied by the sound of pond life.

Entry \$10 Students \$6 U18 free via Trybooking  
<https://www.trybooking.com/BSXOR>  
[opengardensvictoria.org.au](http://opengardensvictoria.org.au)

**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY**

South East Melbourne Region Inc A00131128P

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL**

Financial Year 1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

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

- Membership includes subscription to the APS Vic magazine Growing Australian (4 issues per year).
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> runs automatically until June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following 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 \$ .....

Signed .....Date.....

Title(s) ..... First Name(s) .....

Surname(s) .....

Postal Address .....

Email .....Phone.....

Membership paid at other APS Group .....

**PAYMENT METHOD (Tick one)**

Direct bank deposit (CBA) with email notification to the Treasurer, Norm Seaton at

[normarjs@bigpond.com](mailto:normarjs@bigpond.com)

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

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021**

For APS South East Melbourne Region Inc A00131128P

Notice is hereby given that the AGM for APS South East Melbourne Region Inc will be held at **8pm on Tuesday 3rd August 2021** at the Hughesdale Community Hall, corner of Poath and Kangaroo Roads, Hughesdale. Alternative night: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September

- Agenda items:
1. Presentation of Reports by the President, Secretary and Treasurer
  2. Election of Office Bearers for 2021/2022.

The following positions are declared vacant: Leader, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Members (3), Newsletter Editor.

If you are able to nominate for one of the above positions, please complete the form below. Nominations can also be made at the meeting.

The AGM will be followed by our usual slide night. Please get your slides to John in the week before the meeting.

**NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS**

**I wish to nominate**

.....

**For the position of**

.....

**Nominator:** ..... (Name and signature)

**Seconder:** ..... (Name and signature)

**Date:** .....