



Dianella admixta

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

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2022

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: Chris Bain
 TREASURER: Norm Seaton normarjs@bigpond.com
 PUBLIC OFFICER: Chris Bain
 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 MARCH newsletter is FEBRUARY 24th*******

Meetings

**8pm, Hughesdale Community Hall
 Cnr Poath and Kangaroo Roads, Hughesdale
 Tuesday 1st February 2022**

Regretfully we have to cancel the February meeting. Malcolm Dow, who was to speak to us, is beset by COVID problems and has had to postpone his talk. There are many reasons why it would not be a good idea for us to meet at this time (RATs impossible to get, many people are currently afflicted with COVID, peak infection time is expected around the end of January, etc) so the committee has erred on the side of caution and cancelled our next meeting. Hopefully, the March meeting will still be possible.

RAINFALL FOR 2021

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Ma y	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Oakleigh Sth	83	11.6	63.3	78.3	50	77.8	37.4	52.4	84.7	124.5	109	23.2	795.2
Highbett	71.7	12	55.3	61.5	52	44.5	33.2	27.5	87	86	70	20.5	621.2
Hampton	66.5	11.8	22.6	33.7	50.3	58	68	38.3	66.8				416
Cranbourne Sth	70	51	65	59	49	78	75	44	129	115	103	17	855
Caulfield Sth	79	8	50	36.5	37	50	54	25	-	-	-	-	339.5
Elsternwick	85.8	8.5	63.5	43.5	57.5	49.1	38.9	21.48	82	116.5	79	22.5	668.28
Drouin (Helen)									170				723

DECEMBER MEETING

Our AGM was held as part of our December meeting. Minutes and reports are given at the end of this newsletter.

A "Clear the Decks" plants sale accompanied the meeting. A slide night and specimen table followed the AGM and we finished with a Christmas supper.

SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

Marj started us off with pictures taken on a trip from Merimbula to Bombala last March. Several shots showed regeneration after bushfires two years previously including a hovea, indigofera, epicormic regrowth on eucalypts, lots of sticky daisies and a newly shooting brachychiton. She followed these with some scenes at the platypus reserve in Bombala and photos taken on some garden visits around Warrnambool where daisies and banksias were prominent.

Mandy followed and she divided her offerings between plants and birds and insects. Of the plants, eucalypts were featured with their interesting variety of buds and flowers (eg *E. Kingsmillii* buds, *E. rhodanthe* flowers, *E. preissiana* flowers), then *Isopogon dawsonia*, *Diplolaena angustifolia* and *Stylidium adnatum*. White *Patersonia occidentalis*, a swamp 'daisy' *Acinodinium cunninghamii* and a yellow *Diuris* also were included. Amongst the insects and birds were a murder of crows, tiny grasshoppers, a ladybird nymph, stink bugs and a cockroach. A good selection.

John gave us a selection of about thirty plants which covered a wide range of species. A general shot of acacias in his backyard was followed by many photos of individual species. Ones I found particularly interesting were *Pultenaea scabra* with its interesting leaves, *Prostanthera stratiflora* with its white flowers with purple stripes, the pink flowers of *Prostanthera galbraithiae* which is endemic to Victoria, a not very common *Cooperhookea georgii* and the flowers of the smooth Davidson's plum, *Davidsonia johnsonii*. Insects weren't forgotten either and we saw a long legged fly, a dragonfly and a damsel fly. John finished with the appropriate *Blandfordia grandiflora*, "Christmas Bells".

SPECIMEN TABLE

A piece of *Eremaea violacea* taken from a four and a half year old bush was **Robert's** offering. It has had a good flowering year, is reasonably hardy especially as it receives no added water. It is in full sunlight from about 9:30 to 2pm.

Yellow kangaroo paws have to be staked at **Mandy's**. Any bird landing on them causes the spikes to collapse. *Acacia gilbertii* was a striking specimen with its white flowers and red new growth. Mandy said that hers is a bit brittle. It grows to about 1.5m high. Two variants of *Lomatia silaifolia* were presented, one has a dense flower head and is loved by the bees, the other's flower was whiter but more open. Her last specimen was of a red *Lambertia ericifolia*.



The red flame tree, *Brachychiton acerifolia*, is in full flower at **Marj and Norm's**. Flowering is somewhat erratic, but this has been an excellent year with all of the leaves falling, leaving just the vibrant red flowers. *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, the Blueberry Ash, also has done well. Flowers and blue berries are existing together for a change. A striking small plant, good for rockeries, is *Scaevola striata*. Marj's has flowered for a long time with many purple flowers. It is from WA, grows to about 35-40cm high and seems happy in part sun. There is a pink flowering version also.

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Amongst **John's** offerings was *Archirhodomyrtus beckleri* (right) or "Rose Myrtle", a new plant to most of us with intriguing little flowers. It is a rainforest tree that John is growing in a pot. It may have orange berries. He also had a *Grevillea sericea* hybrid from the Collaroi plateau, *Lomatia myricoides* (River Lomatia) – Jean's photo of one of these is in our photo gallery, and a *Rhododendron lochiaie* which was adjudged "Plant of the Month".



Award presentation

At the APS Victoria's November quarterly meeting hosted by APS Mornington, John Thompson was finally presented with his 2020 Impressa award for service to APS South East Melbourne. John is here shown with his award presented by APS Vic President, Chris Clarke.

Thank you for all of the work you have put into our club over the years John.



Pick of the Bunch December 2021

Rhododendron lochiaie F.Muell.

Native or Australian Rhododendron

Specimen grown by John Thompson

Rhododendron lochiaie is a small to medium sized shrub that is found on the higher peaks of the mountains north and south of Cairns. It grows in areas of less dense rainforest amongst large boulders. It has also been noted, less commonly, as growing as an epiphyte. The large red, tubular flowers with flared lobes are in terminal clusters of up to seven flowers and occur from November to March.

There is variation between the plants that occur north and south of Cairns. Those to the north have a straight corolla tube with the stamens arranged regularly, whilst those to the south have a curved corolla tube and the stamens grouped on the upper side. This has led to some taxonomic confusion, is there one or two species of Australian Rhododendron? Well, briefly there were two species recognised but currently only one species is currently accepted, that is *R. lochiaie*.

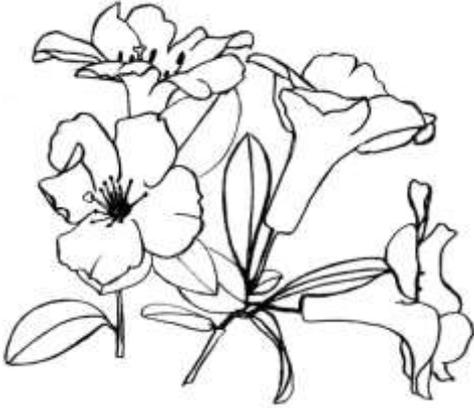
A number of selections have been made from different areas. These have different growing characteristics and are available under the names of 'Mt. Finnigan', 'Mt. Bartle Frere', 'Mt. Spurgeon', 'Mt. Lewis' and 'Thornton Peak'

Whilst attaining a height of up to 5m in the field, it rarely grows above a 1m in cultivation in Melbourne, making it a desirable potted specimen. It can happily remain in the same pot for many years. In the right aspect and soils it will also do well. It requires good drainage, good light but with protection from the extremes of the summer sun, moisture and protection from hot, drying winds and frost.

Propagation is from cuttings of firm greenish wood that strike readily. Like other members of the Ericaceae

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family the roots it produces are very fine and care needs to be exercised when potting on. Seed can also be collected and germinated. Growth of seedlings is often slow and the plants can be 3- 5 years old before flowering.



Drawing: Amanda Louden

Rhododendron is a member of the Ericaceae family, which consists of c.125 genera and c.4100 species worldwide. It is widespread in cool-temperate regions and in tropical mountains; c. 44 genera with some 600 species in Australia.

The genus name is derived from the Greek, *Rhodos* ; rose, and *dendron* ; tree and the specific name of *lochiae* is in honour of Lady Loch, the wife of Sir Henry Brougham Loch who was governor of Victoria between 1884 and 1889.

DIARY

APS South East Melbourne Meetings:

2022	January 24th	Committee meeting: Postponed.
	February 1st	Speaker Malcolm Dow: "Sustainable Gardening"- Cancelled
	March 1st	Speaker Chris Long: "Boronia Oil"
	April 5th	Propagation night.
	May 3rd	Speaker Bill Aitchison: "Daviesias"

APS Victoria

7 February 2022 Special General Meeting via Zoom to change Statement of Purposes and Rules

19 March – APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham.
10 am - 4 pm. Updated 25/10/21

19 & 20 March- Cranbourne Friends Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria's Spring Plant Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. Free entry.

30 March - 3 April - MIFGS.

9 April - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks. 8.30 am to 4.00 pm.

7 May - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale. Details to follow.

3 Sept – APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick in conjunction with City of Casey Garden Expo. Date to be confirmed.

11 – 16th September - ANPSA Biennial Conference 2022 – Kiama, New South Wales.

15-16th October – FJC Rogers Seminar on "Peas"

Monthly Photo Gallery

A photo of one of Peter Baitz’s miniaturized gums:
Most likely a river red gum (the hard-to-see buds
seem to confirm this).



This *Lomatia myricoides* is doing well at one of the
properties where Jean looks after the garden



A collection of photos from Ray – plants for Christmas:

Hibbertia scandens

Diplarrena moraea

Prostanthera saxicola



Prostanthera manifica

Pileanthus aurantiacus

Grevillea shirressii



Cymbidium suare



6. *Pileanthus bellus*



Pileanthus rubrinitidus



Verticordia mitchelliana



Verticordia plumosa



Verticordia galeata



Underneath of Badge Huntsman Spider



Eryngium ovinum



*Far left: Wasp hunting spider
Centre left: top of huntsman spider*

7.
Kangaroo Paws



PROMOTIONS



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 - 7th 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 - 14th FJC Rogers Seminar. Topic: Fabulous peas (the typical 'pea-flowered' plants from the sub-family Faboideae. York on Lilydale, Mt Evelyn. . Expressions of interest and queries to fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com



Fabulous Peas 2022

FJC Rogers Biennial Seminar 15th - 16th 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 8th – 16th October at Karwarra Australian Botanic Garden. Plant sales.

Expressions of interest: fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com

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

Hosted: Australian Plants Society Maroondah Inc.

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**AUSTRALIAN PLANTS SOCIETY
South East Melbourne Region
A0013128P**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held at the Hughesdale Community Hall
Poath Road, Hughesdale
Tuesday 7th December 2021 at 8:15pm**

1. **Welcome:** SEMR leader John Thompson welcomed members to our AGM, deferred from August due to Covid lockdown restrictions. Two new members joined the Group during the year but we have lost our Secretary as Helen has moved to Drouin. John paid tribute to the many years of service Helen has given to the Group and wished her well in her new home.
2. **Attendance:** J. Thompson, A. Loudon, C. Bain. M & N Seaton, P&B Baitz, M & I Margitta, J. Staunton, R. Evans, L & P Collins, R & G Collier. All members doubly vaccinated as confirmed by the marshall, Amanda Loudon
3. **Apologies:** None received.
4. **Minutes of previous AGM:** Moved Amanda Loudon, seconded Chris Bain that the Minutes of the 2020 AGM be accepted as a true and accurate account. Carried.
5. **Leader's Report:** John's report commented on how few meetings we have had during the year, thanks to Covid restrictions. He thanked the committee and all who had contributed to the running of meetings and to the newsletter. Moved Marj, seconded Peter that the Leader's report be accepted. Carried.
6. **Secretary's Report:** Helen thanked everyone for the support she has enjoyed over the years as she carried out her various roles on the committee. She noted that most correspondence this year has been about the hall – when and how we could use it and what the charges were to be. Moved Robert, seconded Norm that the Secretary's report be accepted. Carried.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Norm noted that we had a surplus of \$413.59 for the year, compared to our loss of \$463.84 the previous year, generally caused by restrictions on meetings due to Covid. Our financial position remains strong with cash in bank accounts of \$10,533.52 Full Income and expenditure figures were presented. Moved Jean, seconded Ivan that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.
8. **APS Delegate Report:** No formal report was presented but Marj noted that fees for the coming year would remain the same. The method of payment is expected to change as APS Victoria goes to online payments of all fees. Big events planned for the forthcoming year include the FJC Rogers Seminar on Peas and the ANPSA September gathering in Kiama NSW.
9. **Election of Office Bearers:**

Only one nomination was received for each position.

Leader: John Thompson. Nominated Marj, seconded Peter. Elected.

Deputy Leader: No candidates. One of the committee will stand in for John if required.

Secretary: Chris Bain. Nominated Norm, seconded Marj. Elected.

Treasurer: Norm Seaton. Nominated Marj, seconded Ruth. Elected

Newsletter Editor: Marj Seaton. Nominated Ruth, seconded Marg. Elected.

APS Vic Delegate: Marj Seaton. Nominated John, seconded Norm. Elected.

Committee: Amanda Loudon. Nominated Marj, seconded Jean. Elected.

The committee meets once every two months. The next meeting will be on 24th January 2022 at Mandy Loudon's home.
10. **General Business:**
 - John congratulated the new committee.
 - The program for 2022 is currently as follows:
 - February – Malcolm Dow "Sustainable Gardening"
 - March – Chris Long "Boronia Oil"
 - April – Propagation Night
 - May – Bill Aitchison "Daviesias"
11. **Meeting closed 8:45pm**

Leader's Report 2021

Another year, another AGM and more lockdowns. After resuming our meetings in December last year we have managed to hold all but one of our scheduled meetings in between lockdowns. However as I write this report it seems likely that our 2021 AGM will have to be held over to next month. Time will tell.

Our meetings looked a bit different in the previous months as we needed to follow Covid Safe protocols. The wearing of face masks, social distancing, the signing of the Attendance Book/Covid Safe Diary on arrival along with the use of hand sanitiser will be standard practice for some time yet.

During the past year the committee has done a sterling job organising the speakers, the newsletter, the clubs finances and other administrative functions to provide you, the members, with a group that is vibrant, interesting, active and fun. The committee has seen many office bearers come and go over the years and it is sad that one of our longest serving committee members, Helen Appleby has decided not to nominate for the position of Secretary this year. Helen has served in the role of Secretary since 2008. I would like to thank Helen on behalf of our group for the past thirteen years of dedicated service as Secretary.

Membership numbers are still an area of concern. Whilst not at a critical point that could affect the group's ability to maintain its present standards, we should however, take every opportunity to promote the group to those in our area. I welcome suggestions from members as to how we best promote the group.

Many thanks to those members who generously provide plants for the monthly raffle. The money raised helps defray recurrent expenses such as the hire of the hall.

Helen our Secretary takes care of the administrative matters such as organising the hire of our venue amongst other things. Norm has looked after the club's finances, Marj continues to produce a wonderful newsletter and we could make her job a lot easier by writing an article or submitting a photo or two. Special thanks to Mandy for continuing to provide illustrations for the newsletter, a task she has performed since 1997.

Thank you to all those who contributed articles to the newsletter, wrote up the monthly talks, provided supper, helped put out the chairs and tables and sold the raffle tickets. A special thanks to all my fellow committee members Helen, Marj, Norm, Chris and Mandy.

John Thompson

APS SE Melb Secretary's Report for 2020/21

Well, as you know, it has been a very different year for everyone and the club. Despite the disruption, the committee has again organised a high standard of speakers to present to our group for the few meetings we have had. It's been great to have Chris on the committee introducing some new ideas for meetings and speakers. Other committee business has included: producing the Newsletter Administrative (thanks Marj for the words and Mandy for the drawings!); management activities such as: liaison with APS Victoria; social events; the APS Vic Quarterly meeting and general financial business. We missed having an annual outing and our AGM was in an unheard of December, which meant we just made the deadline for paying registration for Consumer Affairs Victoria.

With respect to the Secretary/Public Officer role this year, most of the correspondence has been about the hall. When can we use it, how can we use it and how much will we be charged for not using it. The Hall booking has been organised through to June 2022 and potential new members were provided with background on the club and APS in general. Requesting the speaker's grant is also part of the role.

The committee has had excellent committee attendance this year but, as always, extra interest by membership is essential to the viability of this club. The committee's work takes little time, but the rewards are great not only for the group but also for the individual, and that's not to mention the biscuits the committee consumes at our meetings!

Again, it's been a pleasure being a member of this group and serving as its Secretary. I will be moving to West Gippsland soon so will be resigning as secretary. Over the years I have been in the club (since 1996 or

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thereabouts) I was firstly a member then was on the committee then the Leader and lastly the Secretary. It's been a wonderful education on Aus Plants and I've really enjoyed meeting the members and listening to the amazing speakers we've had.

Thanks to the general committee members: Marj, Mandy and Chris. Also thank you to our leader, John and of course our Treasurer, Norm. Without their input, the group would not run as smoothly as it does. Their efforts in creating such a vigorous and interesting speaker's program is truly appreciated.

Helen Appleby

Treasurer's Report 2020-21

We recorded a surplus of \$413.59 compared with a deficit of \$463.84 last year. In round figures, income was \$396 higher and expenses were \$481 lower.

Restricted activities due to COVID-19 restraints affected income slightly and reduced expenses to a greater extent.

On the income side:

- fees from members were \$125 higher mainly due to timing differences in receipts and in transfers to APS Victoria.
- we applied for and received a Speakers Grant of \$300 from APS Victoria
- Monash Council returned a hall key bond of \$125
- receipts from raffles and plant sales were \$73 lower
- interest from bank accounts was \$79 lower.

On the expenses side:

- hall hire was \$122 less, due to five meetings being held instead of seven
- speakers' fees and gifts were \$139 less
- there was no subsidised members' lunch - last year our lunch at Kuranga cost \$190
- other minor expenses were \$30 less.

The group's financial position remains strong with cash in bank accounts of \$10,513.52.

Norm Seaton