



SGAP Shepparton & District

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

October 10	Meeting at South Shepparton Community Centre – 8 pm
November 14	Meeting at South Shepparton Community Centre – 8 pm
December	End of Year Dinner
January	No Meeting

President	Carolyn Edwards	Ph: 5821 4826
Vice President	Trish Moss	Ph: 0427 298 288
Secretary	Jenny Polinelli	Ph: 0428 538 402
Treasurer	Carolyn Edwards	Ph: 5821 4826
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WELCOME TO SPRING!

Everyone's garden will be putting on a great show at the moment - enjoy the flowering plants.

Garden Visits

May we hosted APS Strathbogie Ranges Group for garden visits, we thank Claire Blake, Carolyn Edwards and Drew Baglin for opening their gardens. Each garden was very different, interesting as well as inspiring.





Frog Presentation

July saw us join the Strathbogie Ranges group and Ruffy Landcare – at Ruffy for a presentation by Karen Retra on frogs. Karen is very passionate about bees, when bees quieten down over winter, she fills the void with frogs, and I might admit she is as passionate about frogs. Her lively presentation makes them both interesting and informative.



Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held in August. All positions were filled, with a change of President to Carolyn Edwards. Carolyn now holds the position of President as well as Treasurer and COMM representative.

Paul's Visit

Paul Kennedy was in the area in August and thought a garden visit would be the best way to catch up with members. We visited Drew Baglin's impressive garden first. WE had a cuppa and cake to celebrate Laurie's 98th birthday the next day. We are very lucky that Drew is so obliging in opening his garden for visits.



Next, we went to Kensington Gardens to view the work Laurie has done there in establishing two Australian native plant areas. Paul was very interested to see a rare hakea Laurie had grown by seed and was flowering. Hakea Machochieana was the Hakea in question. Congratulations to Laurie for growing this hakea and getting it to flower after several attempts. Needless to say, there were lots of photos taken.



Strathmerton Garden Visit

Finally we got our visit to Jeanette Graham's Garden at Strathmerton. Jeanette has many very interesting plants in her garden as well as for sale. After lunch Jeanette showed us the paintings she has done, a very talented lady. Thanks to Jeanette for fitting us into her busy schedule. We were pleased that two members from the Goulburn Valley Tree Group were able to join with us.

Strathbogie Ranges Garden Visits.



This return visit was held on Saturday 23 September 2023 in lovely weather.

Our first visit was in Euroa, where we viewed Judith's town garden, a very relaxing garden, with lots of interesting nooks and crannies. Thanks to Judith for morning tea served from the deck overlooking the back garden.

Then onto Longwood East to Mark and Helen's Garden. This garden was all about the views and granite rocks. Mark said you plant things where the spade doesn't hit rock! We had lunch in the garden with views of rolling hills.





Next to Val and Franks Garden at Longwood. WOW ... this was a garden of some size. Val described it as a wandering garden, which started 12 years ago, and has mass plantings of Xanthorea, Lomandra, Dianella and Acacias, and is terraced with gabion walls of local granite. A lovely day, and again we had five members of the Goulburn Valley Tree Group join us at Euroa, and then three members for the Longwood gardens.



Carolyn & John's FNQ & PNG holiday in June 2023.

Our trip started with a flight to Cairns where we hired a car and drove south over the Atherton Tablelands to be with our daughter Lisa at Mt. Garnet on the Kennedy Highway. The weather was rather warm for us after the cold of Victoria. We stayed at Innot Springs Motel / Caravan Park, the hot artesian springs come up in the bed of the Nettle Creek which has a constant flow, the water is between 74 to 85 degrees centigrade, the water is then piped into 3 different temperature pools and a spa for tourists at the park. The water and chemical components have been traced to PNG.

Lisa organized for us to visit an avocado farm where they grow 6 different varieties of avocado and a lemon farm which had been established by a retired sugar cane farmer from Innisfail. The farms were both using up to date methods of irrigation. The Pinnarendi Station Stay west of Mt. Garnet has established a café and caravan park that operates in the tourist season, they have built a pizza and bread oven from bricks recycled from a demolished mining chimney. They have pizza night on Friday and Saturday, bookings are essential, two sittings and six different pizzas with great varieties of toppings.

Lisa took us for a tour on the tablelands to Lake Eacham, an extinct volcano now filled with water and is a fishing, boating, swimming, and picnic area. The park is in thick rain forest and has a walking track around the lake. We then drove to Atherton through rich farming country and lots of rainforest. Another day we went to Ravenshoe for supplies and a meal at the highest Hotel in Queensland (more trivia).

A highlight of my trip was a 400-kilometre mail run with Brett on unsealed road to 12 stations, I was worried as I had been warned about the bad corrugations on the road. I loaded the Land Rover with cushions, lunch, water bottles, sunscreen, insect repellent and hat ready for the day. The mail is delivered to some mailboxes on the roadside or 100 meters off the road or taken all the way into the homestead which is the station owner's choice. Some of the mailboxes are works of art made from whatever was laying around. Most of the stations have been in the same family since settlement.

I started out thinking the country would be very arid, however there was a lot of trees and low vegetation. There was only one acacia and one grevillea flowering a bit disappointing. The grass was high from the unseasonal rains.





On Minnamooka Station there was a fabulous wet land covering a large area with a great number of different birds. The wetland was full of water and recedes as the weather gets hotter, we also saw kangaroos, emus, and wild pigs.

At the end of the mail run we crossed the Herbert River which had beautiful clear water, Brett said you could see fish in the river, not when I was there! There were callistemons, melaleucas and eucalypts all growing in the riverbed some on a 45-degree angle or more due to the high flows in the wet season. It was my lucky day as the roads had been well graded and were rather smooth and the day wasn't hot. The round trip takes eight hours. Brett does this mail run twice a week which is one of the longest one-day mail runs for Australia Post.

After our visit to Mt. Garnet, we then flew to Port Moresby P.N.G. to visit Sandy, Shona and Tanami, Patrick was away working on Bougainville.

Sandy and family have been living in Pt. Moresby for 4 years, it is a different lifestyle, they live in a compound with 2 sets of guards on gates to get in while others patrol the grounds day and night. Sandy took us out to show us the sights. When leaving the compound, you travel with the doors locked and windows up, each car had a radio connected to a rapid response security firm. There are areas that you can go to safely, but a lot of the city is out of bounds.

We visited the school Shona attends and the preschool Tanami attends they also have guards on the gates and high steel fencing. Outside the school there are people selling fruit and veg, handcrafts, and artifacts, all pleading for a sale. Most Papuans chew a nut from an areca palm (betel nut) which is mixed with lime juice, it is addictive and blood red in their mouths and they spit it out all the time on the footpaths. By chewing the betel nut it suppress their appetite as they have little food, it also causes cancer and their teeth to rot. Most people have no work and a lot of the children do not go to school.

We visited the Museum which had a great display of native artifacts, baskets, spears, nets, fish traps, face masks, boats, totem poles, clay pots, and decorative pieces to hang on walls. A lot of historical information also.

A market in the grounds of the museum had stalls of modern paintings, traditional dresses, carved wooden bowls and ornaments and different food dishes.

There is a large market for Belum's, a hand-woven bag made of course string by women in villages across P.N.G. this is a source of income for the villages, and each has a different style.

We were taken to the Domana War Cemetery where 3773 men and one woman from seven nations rest in peace after the second world war. There are still a large number of bodies missing in the jungle. The maintenance of the cemetery is paid for by the Australian Government and each grave has a selection of plants in front of the headstone, the grounds and immaculate.

We flew to the island of Great Britian to stay for 5 nights at the Kokopo Beach Bungalow Resort. Here we went swimming with dolphins, visited an active volcano Davurbur & Vulcan, which erupted in 1994 destroying the town of Reboul with a thick layer of ash, the town was flattened and has since been rebuilt.

A highlight was visiting a village in the rain forest to see the "Fire Dance" ceremony which is when boys are initiated into the clan as men. The men have elaborate masks and run through the fire kicking the ashes around on the ground. There is a group of men making music with large bamboo poles being dropped on wooden blocks and chanting/singing during the dance. It was a wonderful night watching the traditional dance of the village.

The countryside is typical rain forest similar to far North Queensland they have some dairies and beef cattle, banana and coffee, coco and copra plantations.



Calendar of Events

- October 10th 2023 we will be holding a general meeting at 8pm at South Shepparton Community Centre, where we will be discussing the floral display we will be doing at the Shepparton Show 12-14th September 2023.
- November 14th meeting will be held at South Shepparton Community Centre at 8pm.
- December End of Year Dinner
- No meeting January

Thanks to Carolyn for her contributions to this newsletter.

Birthday wishes to Laurie who has turned 98 and also Margaret who is celebrating her 90th birthday this month.

I hope everyone has a good Christmas and looking forward to seeing you all in 2024

Jenny