



Society for Growing Australian Plants Shepparton & District

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Summer/Autumn Newsletter

Welcome to 2024

Hello members,

Hope everyone is keeping the weeds at bay, they are certainly keeping us busy, with the extra rain we have had, which encourages growth.

We are going to start our year with meetings at the Shepparton Men's Shed meals room. The Men's Shed is in the grounds of the former Vision Centre, where we held meetings for many years. Garry Gray offered the use of the rooms at a very minimal cost.

We once again joined with the Tallygaroopna/Congupna Landcare group for our end of year get together at Mooroopna Golf Club. This was well attended and good to meet up with everyone over dinner.

Come along to our February meeting where we will plan our years activities, that way we will be able to cater for everyone's wishes.

As Laurie is now in Ave Maria, we will all need to step up and bring along flowers, that are flowering in our own gardens to present at our meetings. Laurie's special plant flowers will be sorely missed, but there are many other plants that put on a good show.

Please feel free to offer newsletter items.

Jenny

Our Meeting dates for your calendar ...

Tuesday 13th February

Tuesday 12th March

Tuesday 9th April

Meeting at the Shepparton Men's Shed at 8 pm

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SHEPPARTON AGRICULTURAL SHOW

In October we had an exceptional display at the Shepparton Agricultural Show.

With a bit more space we were able to display our flowers to their full advantage. Thanks to the members who set up, manned, and cleaned the area over the two days. We had many compliments from the public. All flowers on show were from members gardens.



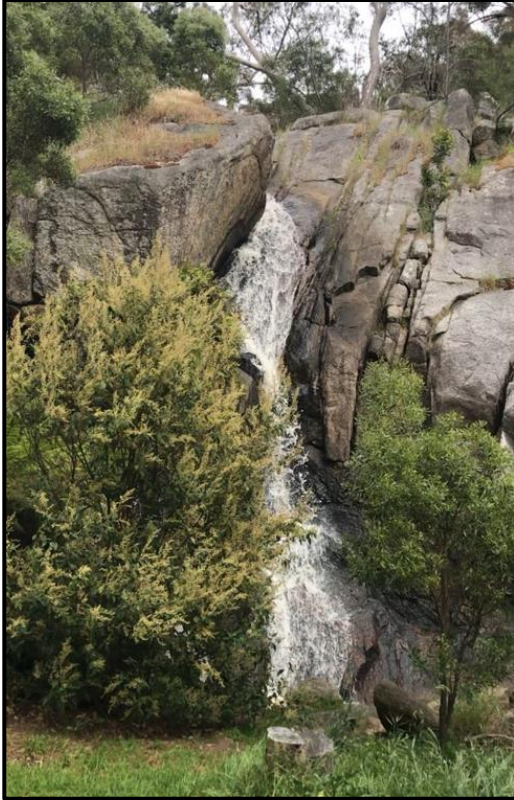
CONGRATULATIONS CAROLYN!

Carolyn once again won first prize at the Shepparton Agricultural Show with her floral arrangement in the section "flowers from my garden".



APS STRATHBOGIE RANGES MEETING

We joined with the APS Strathbogrie Ranges Group for their meeting at Creighton's Creek. Anne & Barry Noye opened their garden to visit. This was a very mature garden, with exotics as well as Native trees. They even had a natural water fall at the bottom of the garden, which also serves as their water supply.



Wollemi Pine

RECOGNITION FOR GLORIA

Leonie Carroll reports that former member, Gloria Thomlinson has had her sketches of Australian plants accepted by the National Gallery, where they will be preserved forever.

Not only is Gloria a brilliant botanical artist, her knowledge of Australian Plants and their use in landscaping is exceptional.

Gloria is in care at a Frankston Facility.



Line drawings (as *Brachyscome spathulata* subsp. *spathulata*). e. plant; seed (front view).
Gloria Thomlinson, Daisy Study Group, © 2021
Royal Botanic Gardens Board, Melbourne, Vic

STURT'S DESERT PEAS – *Swainsona formosa*

Australian Native Arboretum

Sturt's Desert Pea varieties coming to the arboretum

Stuart's Desert Peas, or *Swainsona Formosa*, are a unique Australian bloom and floral symbol for South Australia. Most people would describe them as being a brilliant red colour with a black eye, however Greg Kirby, past President of the Australian Plant Society of South Australia APSSA tells us they exist in an array of different colours.

Greg is heavily involved with the activities with the APSSA and has played a huge role in the establishment of the Australian Native Plant Arboretum with Neutrog in Kanmantoo. The new arboretum is growing beautifully, and the plan is to add some of these colourful varieties of Sturt's Desert Pea.

Greg says, "you cannot start to raise the seeds until the weather is regularly sitting above 25C. I'll be starting off the seeds in tubes rather than seeding directly into the soil.

The reason for this is if they begin germinating, the snails will be all over them, Therefore, planting out when of a suitable size will ensure success."



"I'll use a free draining growing media suitable for Australian natives, and once germinated I'll apply a solution of Seamungus. I'm also looking forward to using the new Bush Tucker Advanced Biological Formula on them once planted out into the arboretum"



Article from the **Neutrog** - 'The POOH BAH News – February 2024

Looking forward to a good year ahead.

