



SGAP Shepparton & Districts
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SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming events for:

November 15th

Yackatooon visit

December 8th

Christmas breakup

January

No meeting

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Newsletter

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Hello Members,

Our year has been 'one of a kind'. With Covid 19 restrictions curbing our activities and meetings. This gave everyone more time to be in the gardens, and with more winter rains, they are putting on spectacular displays at the moment. Luckily for us in the Regional areas we are starting to see the easing of restrictions, due to the low numbers, and in a lot of areas, no cases at all. I had a great display of Rhodanthe Rosea, from the seed saved from last year's great plant out. Seemed like two flowerings as I planted them in both sunny and less sunny spots, and as the pinks were fading one side of the garden the others started putting on a great display. The seeds from this year, *Brachyscome iberidifolia* are putting on great growth and budding up really well, with some showing their colours.



Rhodanthe
Rosea

Broken-Boosey State Park

We had a hastily organised visit to Broken-Boosey State Park, at Drumanure on Sunday October 4th 2020. How lovely it was to catch up and see everyone.

Vice President Rob, had spoken earlier in the year to a very enthusiastic member of the Nathalia Wildflower group, Judy Ormond about visiting that way in Spring. Rob received a call from Judy Wednesday evening saying she had just discovered the area and wanted to share it with our group if possible. The wheels were set in motion and we travelled to see her discovery on Sunday. The area wasn't huge but the flowers were plentiful. Flowers we saw were as follows, and thanks to Carolyn, for marking what we saw as went along.

Gold Dust Wattle	-	<i>Acacia acinacea</i>
Sweet Bursaria	-	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>
Grey Parrot Pea	-	<i>Dillwynia cinerescens</i>
Small VanillaLily	-	<i>Arthropodium minus</i>
Chocolate Lily	-	<i>Arthropodium strictum</i>
Swamp Daisy	-	<i>Brachyscome basaltica</i>
Lemon Beauty Heads	-	<i>Calocephalus citreus</i>
Pink Bindweek	-	<i>Colvolvulus erubescens</i> s.l.
Black Anther Flax Lily	-	<i>Dianella revoluta</i> s.l.
Goodenia	-	<i>Goodenia</i> spp.
Creeping Mint	-	<i>Mentha saturoides</i>
Smooth Minuria	-	<i>Minuria integerrima</i>
Pussy Tails	-	<i>Ptilotus spathulatus</i>
New Holland Daisy	-	<i>Vittadinia</i> spp.
Native Blue Bell	-	<i>Wahlenbergia</i> spp.

These were all set in a Grey Box area along the Nine Mile Creek.

After lunch we ventured to the northern side of the Park and saw bigger swaths of flowers.

The day was enjoyed by all who attended, it was time for some freedom!



ptilotus spanthulatus



Brachyscome basaltica

Over lunch some stories about the history of the Nathalia Group was shared. Nathalia is a small town with people being involved with many organisations. The Grain Store at Nathalia holds many different exhibitions, often with resident artists for short periods of time. One artist, Eliza Jane Gilchrist, after a bush visit, quoted "Under foot, but overlooked."



Well known Nathalia identity Howie Marshal (dec), a founder of the Wildflower Group and a very knowledgeable man on all native plants, was awarded and OAM for his efforts over many years. According to Judy, Howie declared he had been to Melbourne once, and wasn't going again to receive his medal. Judy said she will never forget, John Landy, the runner, but in his compacity as Governor, arrived at Howie's place - with his entourage of three big black cars, and chauffers, dressed in their black suits and very professional looking – to present Howie with his award. Not long after, Howie, along with John Landy were on their hands and knees, checking out plants on the ground. The chauffer, kept tapping on his watch, as they had another appointment at Cobram. That memory is etched in Judy's mind forever.

Vale Mal Erskine

Mal was a founding member of the Society for Growing Australian Plants Shepparton & District in 1966 and led the group as President from 1969-74. Mal was awarded Life Membership of APSVic in 1978. He was a very popular guest speaker at various groups specialising on the subjects of eucalypts, native grasses and local flora.

Mal and his wife Dorothy ran a native nursery for many years in Shepparton. Mal grew many plants from seed bought back from Western Australia by other groups. He also grew and sold plants at markets.

Upon retiring Mal had many rare and special plants growing on his property until bought out by Vic Roads.

Mal passed away April 23rd 2020. Our thoughts are with the Erskine family.

We also lost member Margaret Thompson in May. Margaret was always willing to attend meetings and excursions with the group. Our sympathy to the Thompson family.

President David, recently lost his mother, and Vice President Rob lost her Mother, condolences to all family members.

November Meeting

Sunday November 15th we will travel to Trotters Road, Coomboona to visit the 6.5 ha garden "Yackatoon". This is an English style garden with a back drop of eucalyptus forest. It is open every Sunday from now until December. Meet at Shepparton Library Car Park to car pool at 1pm. Entry to Garden is \$10.00. Devonshire Tea is available.

December Meeting

Christmas break up. We have chosen Option 1 and Option 2.

Option 1.

If restrictions allow we will meet for a dinner meeting/ Christmas break up at the Sherbourne Hotel at 6.30pm, Tuesday December 8th.

Option 2

BYO picnic dinner, chairs and drinks to the Pony Paddock Congupna, 6.30pm Tuesday 8th December.

At the December meeting we will have a better idea of where the restrictions are at, and will be able to decide on where our meetings will be held next year as an alternative to the Vison Centre meeting room, which is no longer available.

With summer fast approaching, our hope is that it won't be too hot and dry and that we, and our gardens survive. I am looking forward to face to face meetings next year.

DON'T FORGET- Articles for our newsletter will be very gratefully received.

