



SGAP Shepparton & District

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Mooroopna 3629

NEWSLETTER

March, April May 2021

March 20

Gargarro Botanic Gardens
Girgarre

April 17

Kinnairds Wetlands
Numurkah

May 15

Euroa Arboretum

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Newsletter

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Hello Members,

Welcome to 2021. Although we are not back to the 'normal' we have been used to, at the moment at least we are leading a more normal life. Our summer has been vastly different to previous years as well, with lots of cooler days and more rain than we have become used to, which helps to some extent with the watering.

YACKATOON GARDEN VISIT

We visited the garden at Coomboona, this garden was a masterpiece created by owner, Carmel Arena. The garden was called Yackatoon which means Happy Place to the aboriginal tribes that originally inhabited the area, however after 11 years of drought it was no longer a happy place.

Life had taught Carmel not to compete with nature. In the neighbouring National Park, mother nature's best work is on year-round display, and a garden of a contrasting nature was born, formal and English in style with extensive lawns and trimmed hedges formed the backbone of the garden with statuary and rose planting accenting the expanses of green. A scenic lake, running water and cool fountains of white marble serve to create an oasis of tranquillity against the backdrop of bushland.

This was a lovely garden to visit, and all appreciated the ten years of work that had gone into creating the garden.



After the garden visit afternoon tea under the trees was enjoyed by all.

BRACHYSCOME IBERIDIFOLIA

These seeds from the 2020 plant out, put on a lovely show with blue and white flowers. One of my plants decided to 'do its own thing' which resulted in a very pretty flower, as shown below.



ANIGOZANTHOS MAINTENANCE

How stunning can Kangaroo Paw look, with annual maintenance.

Laurie's tips to keep them at their best are:

- Prune late summer – autumn by cutting back to about 2" above ground, Annually.
- Take out any dead foliage.
- Fertilize. Kangaroo Paw don't mind what fertilizer you use, they respond well with either Native Fertilizer or a general one.
- Water fertilizer in.
- Laurie's motto is "LOOKED AFTER – LOOKS BETTER".
- Dividing large clumps is good for plant health and fosters strong vigorous growth.



CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

Sixteen members enjoyed a get together before Christmas to end the year on a high note. We had dinner at McGuire's Bistro. By the chatter that was heard, a lot of catching up was done as we put 2020 behind us.

AUSTRALIAN BOTANIC GARDENS SHEPPARTON

In the December 2020 Growing Australian an article was written about a program the Shepparton Gardens are involved in, along with other Botanic Gardens at Colac, Dandenong Ranges, Ballarat, Sale and Berwick. This program is called Care for the Rare, and aims to increase populations of rare and threatened plants in environments that they are best suited to where they will thrive. These areas are selected because they are either near to the species' native home or they have similar soil and climatic conditions. Keep an eye out for the new plantings next time you are visiting the gardens.

COMING EVENTS

We have planned outings for the next three months, then maybe we will see where the COVID situation is at. At the moment trying to hire halls for meetings is not an easy task.

MARCH EXCURSION - GIRGARRE BOTANIC GARDENS Saturday March 20th 2021

We plan to meet at the Shepparton Library Car Park 10.00am to car pool. Bring your own lunch, drinks, chair and sunscreen.

APRIL EXCURSION – KINNAIRDS WETLAND NUMURKAH Saturday April 17th 2021

Again we will meet at the Shepparton Library Car Park at 10.00am to car pool. Bring your own lunch, drinks, chair and sunscreen as well as good walking shoes.

MAY EXCURSION – EUROA ARBORETUM Saturday May 15th 2021

We will meet at the Shepparton Library Car park at **9.30am** this time. Bring your own lunch, drinks, chair and sunscreen.

JUNE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEETING

SGAP Shepparton & District are hosting the APS Victoria in June. This will be a one day event, where we will be providing a morning cuppa on arrival for the meeting, COMM will start around 9am and break for morning tea which we will be providing. Meeting usually finishes around noon and after lunch we will be organising garden visits. More details to come.

Hope these events are suitable and we see a good roll up.

I finish the newsletter every time with 'any newsletter items gratefully accepted'..... one can live in hope I guess. Many thanks to Laurie for providing me with tips to put in the newsletters each time I call him with a request.

Best wishes,

Jenny Polinelli