

# Australian Plants Society (Wangaratta Inc)

## February 2022 Newsletter

Also visit APS Victoria website  
<https://apsvic.org.au>

### **MEETINGS:**

*Venue: Masonic Lodge, 101 Appin Street, Wangaratta.*

*Meetings are usually held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm.*

*Visitors are always welcome.*

***Note that this year we have decided to combine some of our meetings with our outings, for the benefit of those who are unable to attend evening meetings.***

- Sat. 26th February      Datsons' garden at 4 Wickham Court, Baranduda. 10.30am for 11am start. Bring morning tea to share and BYO lunch & chair. **Don't forget to RSVP to Glenda by Wednesday 23rd please via email or 0428 401 090.** This outing will include the **AGM** & ratification of nominations for committee members. The AGM will be followed by a wander in the garden, discussing design aspects, pests and wildlife in the garden. If you don't have a GPS in your car then don't forget to bring the maps provided to members in an email of 11/2/22. They may be helpful.
- Sat. 26th March      General meeting & outing at Jenny Davidson's garden, 172 Up River Road, Gooramadda.
- 9th-10th April      A plant stall from 9am to 4pm, to be manned by APS volunteers, at the Eldorado Off-grid Festival.
- Thurs. 28th April.      General Meeting at Masonic Lodge. Guest speaker Geoff Lay. Cradle Mountain.
- Sat. May 28th      Outing to Anne & Peter Brain's garden.
- Thurs. 23rd June      7pm. General Meeting at the Masonic Lodge, Wangaratta. Guest speaker Paul Kennedy on Hakeas. TBC.
- Sat. 23rd July      Helen Wrigley's garden to check out the wattles as well as other plants. 10.30am for 11am start.

### **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:**

Wednesday 4th May    5pm. Helen Wrigley's, 114 Colson Drive, Wangaratta.

**The Australian Plants Society (Victoria) is dedicated to promoting, growing and the conservation of Australian native plants, in gardens, community areas and their original environments.**

***Growing Australian magazine*** - an electronic copy can be accessed via the APS Victoria website.

## Getting to know your Committee

Therese Graham

I live and enjoy a 25-acre (10 hectare) property with my husband Gareth, 5 km south of Myrtleford in an area known as Buffalo Creek. We purchased this property during early 2000. Gareth and I with our 3 children, were finally able to settle and embark on our dream of building and living a sustainable life-style.

The development of the land, which is still very much a works in progress, to date consists of a rammed earth main house with a large shed on which 18 solar collector panels feed into a 3.5KW power system, totally independent from the grid. We have produced our own power since 2008, which is when we moved on site after 5 years of sweat equity between paid work and all the activities involved in raising a family. We are currently continuing to slowly beaver away at an owner-built extension to the main house as a long-planned Stage 2 project.

We have established a hobby fruit orchard that now boasts a collection of 38 different varieties of fruit bearing trees. We have a 150,000L rainwater tank collecting water from the main house and shed roofs, but realized with the expanding garden, orchard, and berry areas we needed more water security, so a bore was drilled and commissioned during 2014.

As a child I was exposed to gardening by my parents who nurtured a veggie patch to support the family with fresh seasonal produce. We emigrated to Australia from Germany after I unfortunately contracted Polio as 5-month-old and my parents were advised a warmer climate would suit recovery and general life for this condition. We spent a short time in the migration camp at Bonegilla before being redirected for settlement to South Australia due to my dad's skills as an electrician.

When Gareth and I were first married we moved from Adelaide SA to Darwin NT and back to southern climes, first to Shepparton, then Dookie and finally Myrtleford. I needed to get some dirt under my fingernails and had developed the desire to create a food forest. Through all the moves I have dragged many potted specimens from place to place, plus experimented with a variety of different plant species and taken snippets and seeds along the way – always learning, experimenting, and gathering information.

During the time in Darwin, I undertook some studies towards an "Environmental Science" course to support my employment as a Laboratory Technician/ Assistant in a Secondary School. One of the subjects was Plant Diversity – enhancing my passion for plants.

I formally retired during last year. I had been involved for many years supporting science education at the Tertiary, Secondary as well as Primary school levels in three different states of Australia. It seemed that I had always been dabbling with plant propagation which was also a useful transferable skill to have as a Science Laboratory Technician. We had planted two Japanese maple trees in front of the house and when they became mature enough to generate seedlings, the idea developed that I could pot them up and attempt to sell them ... so my hobby "Trees and Greens" market stall was created.

Our garden at the property is still a huge works-in-progress. I am really pleased to boast a large Gynea lily in front of the house. We also have two healthy Wollemi pines *Wollemia nobilis* on a slope down from the house. At this point I must admit I am not a 'purist' by any means – there are many 'exotic' species amongst our plantings.

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Very excitedly we have discovered a seasonal patch of morel mushrooms under a grove of endemic Apple box *Eucalyptus bridgesiana* that pop up under the right conditions.

Our son Bradley has an interest in the environment and has collected seed for me to propagate. Hence one of my projects has been propagation of Ironbark *Eucalyptus sideroxylon*, Lemon scented gums *Corymbia citriodora*, Red stringy bark *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*, Spotted gums *Corymbia maculata*, Southern Blue gums *Eucalyptus globulus*.

On my to-do list is to gather and propagate bush fire retardant species, and indigenous food species, and always learning more. Thankfully I find myself somewhat “free-ed” up to continue the lifelong learning journey, not to overlook another item on my bucket list is to experience the West Australian wildflower bloom.

Both Gareth and Brad need to be acknowledged for their support and physical help with my at times crazy projects. I am very fortunate and grateful.

I have been enjoying my involvement with the APS Wangaratta group feeding my enthusiasm for new topics to explore.



### ***Which spider is this?***

Photographed on a *Xerochrysum* in our garden, this little beauty seemed to be lying in ambush for whatever nectar seeking creature might unsuspectingly land in front of it.

Thanks to Neil Blair for identifying it as a Crab Spider (sometimes called a Flower Spider). And thanks to Jan Heywood for referring me to the website

[Arachne.org.au](http://Arachne.org.au).

Check out [Thomisidae](#) spiders.

*Glenda Datson*



## Common butterflies in the garden

Jan Heywood



Common Brown

The garden surrounding the Gapsted hut is derelict, but there's a melaleuca as tall as a house, and this year's bountiful rain has produced masses of golden blooms and attracted a dozen Imperial Jezebels. The crowding Red Box stand ankle deep in litter which when walked upon, male Common Brown butterflies rise up at every step. Further up the hill, rampant shiny everlastings are swarming with Painted Ladies, and Common Grass-blues twirl ecstatically in a mating frenzy.



Common Grass-blues

For these blues (*Zizina otis*) are superabundant throughout the whole of Australia. They are often the first butterfly to be seen in spring and the last to fade in autumn. Their cavorting from September to May produces several generations. When examined fresh, these small moth-like butterflies reveal bright lilac upper wings, or a more subdued bronze if female. They close their wings to a drab fawn, faintly patterned underside. Watch for them swarming on the sweet bursaria, or rising from the clover as these small butterflies are eclectic in their tastes, and adapt to their environment whether it be the High Plains, the dry interior or a native or suburban garden. Their larvae feed on the young leaves and flowers of native and introduced legumes: clovers, Lupins, Hardenbergia, Glycine, Swainsona, Indigofera to name a few.



Australian Painted Lady

Like the Common Grass-blues, Australian Painted Ladies (*Vanessa kershawi*) arrive early in the butterfly season and are nearly as plentiful. They are among the first butterflies to be seen on the Mt Buffalo plateau, and the last to depart. They are tough! Their migration path towards the south-east takes many to NZ although they have not been known to breed there. Once so numerous, migrating swarms were said to darken the sky, and in 1888, the Castlemaine train lost traction and came to a halt on their slippery crushed bodies on the tracks.

Photograph a Painted Lady against the sun when it is perched on an everlasting daisy and has closed its wings and you have a glorious miniature stained - glass window.



Imperial Jezebel pupae on communal web

Imperial Jezebels (*Delias harpalyce*) lay their eggs on mistletoe. When the larvae are ready to pupate they congregate close together on a white webbing raft and develop into shiny black pupae. Adult Imperials cruise around mistletoe, often high in the trees, their yellow and red-branded black underside and their white upper-side produce an intriguing shutter-like effect as they fly. Black-white, black-white, black-white....



Imperial Jezebel

### Common Butterflies (cont'd from p4.)

As its name suggests, the Small Grass-yellow (*Eurema smilax*) is small and bright yellow and cruises through the garden in erratic though purposeful flight, landing frequently on small shrubs or flowers. They migrate from the tropics and sub-tropics in the spring, following the good rain. They must be watched for. One will appear suddenly - and vanish. Another may take its place a few days later, also intent on moving right along.

Another commonly occurring insect that's not into moving on but here to stay is the hornet known as the European wasp (*Vespula germanica*) and is ferociously fast and bullet-like, able to knock a feeding butterfly off its flower. Then it chews off the wings. The living victim is carried to the hornet nest to provide fresh food for the hornet larvae.

I have observed attacks on two specimens of the rare Mt Buffalo endemic, the Small Alpine Xenica (*Oreixenica latialis thedora*). The butterflies stood no chance.

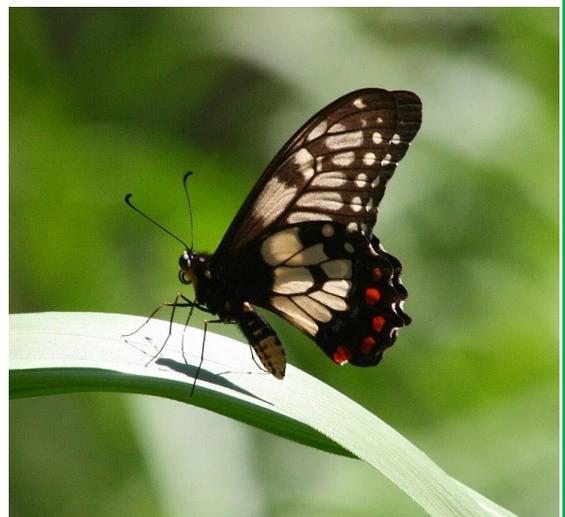
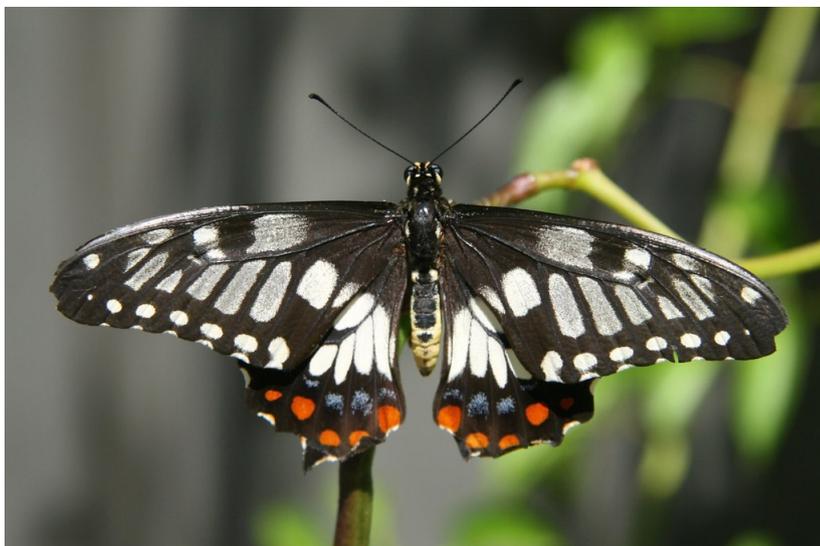
There are swarms of European wasps on Buffalo at the time when the xenicas are most active.

**So**, following on from Jan's article, have you been watching the many butterflies in your garden this season?

Our 'pollinator garden', planted with *Lythrum salicaria* or perhaps better known as Purple Loosestrife, has been full of the introduced Cabbage White and also the native Meadow Argus and Painted Lady Butterflies.

We have also been watching the beautiful Dingy Swallowtail (not a good name for such a beautiful creature). The larvae feed on citrus foliage while the adult butterflies are very fidgety, fluttering over and feeding on the nectar producing flowers of several different native shrubs including daisies. Ed.

Photos sourced from: [livestaticflickr.com](https://www.livestaticflickr.com)



Sourced: [www.projectnoah.org](http://www.projectnoah.org)

## ***From Rosemary Buchanan:***

“This looks like it may be of interest to our members. I know our APS newsletter often has interesting items from The Conversation which I enjoy.”

[https://theconversation.com/orchid-hunting-has-come-a-long-way-in-5-steps-you-can-join-a-national-research-effort-172383?utm\\_term=Autofeed&utm\\_medium=Social&utm\\_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR08ufltVXxT3NVQCuyqtRGBETBGV4v5\\_l8igFr9SYaSJwjd-RGbE4cyguc#Echobox=1640848001](https://theconversation.com/orchid-hunting-has-come-a-long-way-in-5-steps-you-can-join-a-national-research-effort-172383?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR08ufltVXxT3NVQCuyqtRGBETBGV4v5_l8igFr9SYaSJwjd-RGbE4cyguc#Echobox=1640848001)



### Orchid hunting has come a long way. In 5 steps you can join a national research effort

Contributions from citizen scientists who look for orchids are incredibly valuable in orchid research because they cover much more ground than a handful of experts.

Orchid hunting conjures images from the 1800s – explorers in mud-spattered khaki, traipsing through impenetrable jungle, overloaded with equipment: jars, bottles, bags and boxes, a gun (to shoot down tree-top orchids) and a magnifying glass. Things have changed a bit since then. You don't need to sail halfway around the world – and all you need is a camera or smartphone.

Further information is found at [theconversation.com](https://theconversation.com)

**Member articles for the Newsletter would be very welcome!**

- ***How sustainable is your garden?***

Check out [www.sgaonline.org.au](http://www.sgaonline.org.au) for a checklist to see how your garden performs and what improvements you might make.

- ***Rice flowers***

Check out *Blushing rice flower not for boiling or baking* at [Talking Plants](https://talkingplants.com.au)

- ***25 top Eucalypts***

Check out *Eucalypt of the year* at <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/16/eucalypt-of-the-year-25-species-from-tall-to-small-vie-for-top-tree>



This summer has been relatively mild here in Wangaratta with the La Ninja event delivering greater than average rainfall and more than usual humidity. I wonder if the humidity was responsible for the sudden death of my *Isopogon formosus x latifolius*. I hope my new formosus is a bit easier to grow here. Mid-February it is getting dry here again and I have run my drip systems a few times but my tank is still nearly full.

Very little is in flower at the moment but the rather unusual *Callistemon viminalis* 'Running River' which has not been watered is the best it has ever been and the ever reliable *Correa glabra* 'Coliban River' has quite a few yellow/green flowers. Its dark green leaves contrast nicely with the also reliable *Westringia longifolia*. This is a fantastic plant for sun or shade with masses of frothy white flowers in spring. The one I have in semi shade has quite a few flowers at the moment. Vanilla lilies in a pot have been flowering for months.



*Callistemon salignus* 'Eureka' which has very pretty pink flowers has attractive pink tipped leaves. This one on the north side of the house will be pruned back to nearly half when the hot weather is over. The low growing form of *C. salignus* has colourful foliage which is not very evident at the moment. It is a great no prune plant but it does like a little extra water. I am enjoying the heads of the wallaby grass you can see in the photo. I am sure some traditional



gardeners would just think my garden is messy.

.....Cont'd p8



Obviously plants like Lomandras and Dianellas are very important in the summer garden. They provide upright or weeping foliage in many different shades of green. The fine leaved *Lomandra* 'Tanika' provides a nice contrast to the stiff *Acacia beckleri* behind. It is covered in buds even though it will not flower till late winter, which is why I try to prune all my wattles before Christmas.

The *Acacia glaucoptera* is showing some pretty red new growth. The strappy leaves at the base belong to the lily *Orthosanthus multiflorus* which does well for me on the east or south side of the house and has been providing a few pretty blue flowers throughout summer after its usual showy spring flowering. The *A. glaucoptera* is always threatening to die back and/or fall over so I have to prune it carefully.

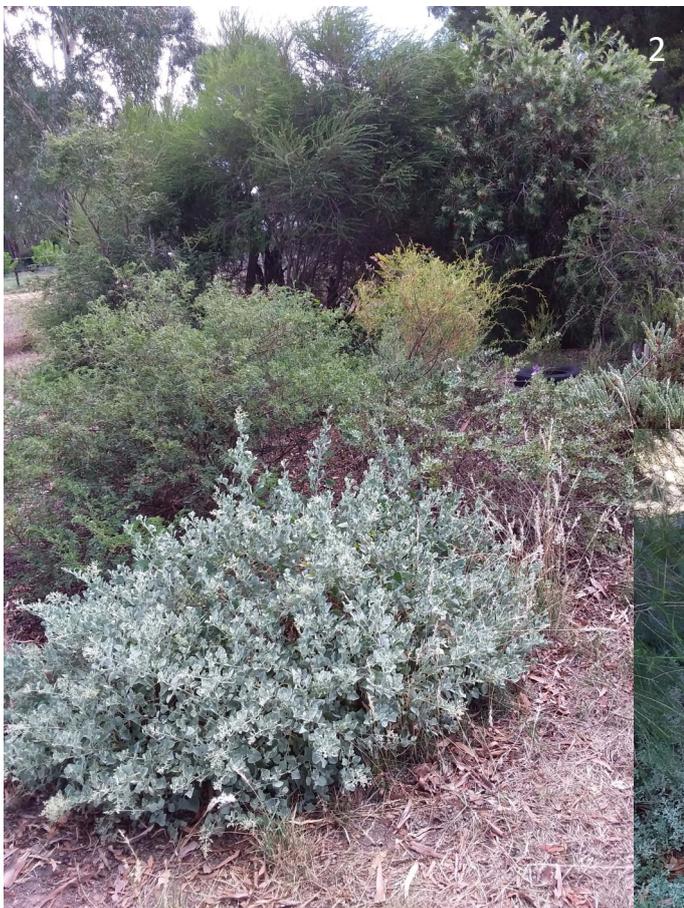
A great little acacia with bright green foliage is *lasiocarpa* which is also no prune. Nearby is a silver form of that great filler *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*. The silver bush is *Eucalyptus* 'Moon Lagoon' which gets to 2 metres tall but needs some pruning to retain the lovely juvenile foliage. Under it is the very reliable ground cover form of *Grevillea obtusifolia*.



....Cont'd p9



1  
A newly planted *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* 'Baby Blue' (1) has gorgeous foliage. It got hit by frost last winter but recovered. Also with showy silver foliage at the moment are the Snowy River Wattle, which tends to sucker and *A. cultriformis*. Both wattles have budded up already and the latter has both ripe seed and buds. A new wattle popped up recently and it took me some time to realise it was an *Acacia spectabilis* which I last grew several years ago. I will not water this one as the last one grew very quickly and died very quickly. The silver leaved *Hakea petiolaris* has got to about 2m so it is due for a prune.



2  
The rather smelly *Rhagodia spinescens* (2) is particularly useful in dry areas. The very flat *R. spinescens* 'Aussie Flat Bush' is a great groundcover, great at keeping weeds out. I have been impressed with my fairly new *R. parabolica* 'Grey Edge' (3). It seems to be keeping to the description of 1m x 1.5m without pruning.

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Thought you might enjoy a photo of my recently pruned Geraldton wax *Chamelaucium* 'Moulin Rouge' which is covered in pink buds and mauve flowers for months from winter through to summer. The foliage (it will grow back) smells lovely and I use it in cocktails.



O dear, I just spotted a Belladonna flower at the base of the 'Eureka'. I thought I had got them all out. The huge bulbs have destroyed the garden edging. I got a wheel barrow full. Where's my mattock?

Happy gardening.

*Helen Wrigley*

Some of the participants at the propagating morning & Christmas breakup on 4th December 2021.

L to R: John Podubinski, Helen Wrigley, Malcolm & Mirella McKinnon, Alison Earp, Joye Podubinski, Kirsty Traill, Barbara Buchanan, Rosemary Buchanan, John & Helen van Riet, Gareth & Therese Graham & Richard Jerome.



### ***Your Committee:***

<b>President:</b> John van Riet	5725 7207	helenvanriet@bigpond.com
<b>Secretary:</b> Alison Earp	5729 7518	kalisetptyltd@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b> Arthur Meyers	5728 1654	pianoman@netc.net.au
<b>Membership Officer:</b> Gillian Anderson	5766 2397	pdga280@bigpond.com
<b>Newsletter:</b> Glenda Datson	(02) 6020 8104	gdatson@bigpond.net.au
<b>APS Vic Representative &amp; Specimen Table:</b> Therese Graham 0407 563 614		
	therese238@westnet.com.au	

### **Non Official Roles:**

Joan Cochrane, <i>Supper roster</i> ,	5728 1654	Alan Gibb	5727 3362
Joanne Diver	0412 985501	Jenny Davidson	(02) 6032 8442
Michael O'Sullivan	5725 1784	Helen Wrigley	5722 2824
Rosemary Buchanan	0428 998 336	Helen van Riet (also APSV Lone Member Officer)	

## ***Shows, conferences, plant sales and other items of interest 2022***

***Important: Please check APS Victoria website Events Calendar for any cancellations & updates.***

See [Australian Plants Society Victoria \(apsvic.org.au\)](https://apsvic.org.au)

**5 March 2022** - APS Vic COMM: Hosted by APS Maroondah. Senior Citizens Hall, 2-8 Laurence Grove, Ringwood East, 3135.

**19 March 2022** - APS Yarra Yarra Autumn Plant Sale, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, Eltham. 10am to 4 pm.

**19 & 20 March 2022** - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Autumn Plant Sale. 10am to 4pm. Free entry. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. For more information see: <https://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au/>

**30 March to 3 April 2022** - Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show (MIFGS)

**9 April 2022** - APS Geelong Australian Native Plant Sale, 'Wirrawilla', Lovely Banks. 8.30am to 4.00pm.

**7 May 2022** - APS Mornington Peninsula Plant Sale. The Briars, Nepean Highway, Mt Martha. 10am to 3.30pm.

**14 May 2022** - APS Melton and Bacchus Marsh Plant Sale. 9am to 1pm. St Andrews Uniting Church at Bacchus Marsh - venue to be confirmed.

**June (date to be advised)** - APS VIC COMM: Hosted by APS Shepparton.

**25 & 26 June 2022** - APS Ballarat Winter Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gillies Street, Ballarat. 10am to 4pm.

**16 & 17 July 2022** - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Winter Plant Sale. 10am to 4pm. Free entry. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. For more information see: <https://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au/>

**27 & 28 August 2022** - APS Yarra Yarra Australian Plants Expo, Eltham Community & Reception Centre, 801 Main Road Eltham. 10.00am to 4.00 pm both days.

**1 September 2022** - Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar 2022. Details to follow.

**3 Sept 2022** - APS Wilson Park (Berwick) Plant Sale, Wilson Botanic Gardens, Berwick in conjunction with City of Casey Garden Expo. Date to be confirmed.

**11 to 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.

**17 & 18 September 2022** - APS Bendigo Flower Show, Kangaroo Flat Primary School Gym, Freeman Drive, Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo. 9.30am to 4.00pm. Entry \$5, children free.

**24 & 25 September 2022** - APS VIC COMM and Quarterly Gathering: Hosted by APS Loddon Murray in Swan Hill.

**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.

**1 & 2 October 2022** - APS Grampians Group Pomonal Native Flower Show, Pomonal Hall.

**8 October 2022** - APS Echuca Moama Native Flower Showcase, Echuca Masonic Lodge Hall, 426 High Street, Echuca.

**15 & 16 October 2022** - 14th FJC Rogers Seminar. Topic: Fabulous Peas (the typical 'pea-flowered' plants from the sub-family Faboideae). York on Lilydale in Mt Evelyn. Expressions of interest and queries to: [fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com](mailto:fabulouspeas2022@gmail.com)

**22 & 23 October 2022** - Cranbourne Friends RBGV Spring Plant Sale. 10am to 4pm. Free entry. Wide range of plants, plant list available one week before sale. For more information see: <https://rbgfriendscranbourne.org.au/>

**October 2022 (date to be advised)** - APS Ballarat Spring Flower Show. Flower show, plant sales etc. Robert Clark Centre, Ballarat Botanic Gardens, Gillies Street, Ballarat. 10am to 4pm.